342

CONFIDENTIAL.

F.O.
424

FURTHER PAPERS

RESPECTING

THE TARIFF OF 1839

WITH

THE PORTE;

AND

On the bearing of the existing Commercial Regulations upon British Trade in Turkey.

4

CONFIDENTIAL.

FURTHER PAPERS

RESPECTING

THE TARIFF OF 1839

WITH

THE PORTE;

AND

On the bearing of the existing Commercial Regulations upon British Trade in Turkey.

LIST OF PAPERS.

No.				Page
1.	Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to Viscount Palmerston .. .. .. (No. 21)	Constantinople,	August 14, 1846	1
	Five Inclosures			
	1. Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to the Hon. H. Wellesley		August 14, ——	1
	2. The British Merchants at Constantinople to Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch		July 20, ——	3
	3. Table of difference of Prices on Articles of Importation and Exportation, in 1838 and 1846			5
	4. Return of principal Articles of Export shipped at Constantinople for Great Britain in British vessels, from 1840 to 1845			6
	5. Approximate value of Imports from Great Britain to Constantinople, from 1840 to 1845			7
2.	Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to Mr. Bidwell		September 3, ——	7
3.	Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to Viscount Palmerston .. .. (No. 31)		November 17, ——	8
	Two Inclosures			
	1. Mr Consul-General Cumberbatch to the Hon. H. Wellesley		November 14, ——	8
	2. The principal British Merchants at Constantinople to Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch		November 11, ——	9
4.	Mr. Consul Lander to Viscount Palmerston (No.)	Dardanelles,	September 8, ——	10
	Three Inclosures			
	1. Mr. Consul Lander to the Hon. H. Wellesley		September 8, ——	10
	2. Mr. Calvert to Mr. Consul Lander		August 27, ——	10
	3. Statement of principal articles exported within the jurisdiction of the Consulate at the Dardanelles, &c...		.. .. ..	10
5.	Mr. Consul Blunt to Viscount Palmerston (No. 19)	Salonica	October 10, ——	10
	Three Inclosures			
	1. Mr. Consul Blunt's Report and suggested amendments		.. .. ..	11
	2. Messrs. Abbott Brothers to Mr. Consul Blunt		September 15, ——	15
	3. Messrs. Chasseaud and Co. to Mr. Consul Blunt		September 28, ——	17
6.	Mr. Consul Willshire to the Earl of Aberdeen (No. 15)	Adrianople,	June 25, ——	18
	Two Inclosures			
	1. Mr. Consul Willshire to Sir Stratford Canning		June 25, ——	18
	2. Messrs. Schnell and Co. to Mr. Consul Willshire		June 23, ——	19
7.	Mr. Consul Sandison to Viscount Palmerston (No. 17)	Brussa,	September 2, ——	20
	Two Inclosures			
	1. Report on amendment of the Tariff of 1838		.. .. ..	20
	2. Report on the bearing of existing Regulations on British trade with Turkey		.. .. ..	23
8.	Mr. Consul-General Colquhoun to the Earl of Aberdeen .. .. (No. 12)	Bucarest,	July 9, ——	26
	Inclosure			
	Mr. Consul-General Colquhoun to Sir Stratford Canning		July 3, ——	27
9.	Mr. Consul Gardner to the Earl of Aberdeen (No.14)	Jassy,	July 20, ——	27

No.				Page
10.	Mr. Vice-Consul Cunningham to the Earl of Aberdeen	Galatz,	July 4, 1846	28
	Two Inclosures			
	1. Mr. Vice-Consul Cunningham to Sir Stratford Canning		July 4, ——	28
	2. Report on Tariff of 1839, as regards British Trade of Moldavia, Wallachia, and Bulgaria on the Danube			29
11.	Mr. Consul Saunders to Mr. Bidwell (No. 13)	Yanina,	August 19, ——	30
	Two Inclosures			
	1. Mr. Consul Saunders to Sir Stratford Canning		August 17, ——	31
	2. Statement of principal Articles upon which the Tariff valuations of 1839 prove disadvantageous to Exporters			33
12.	Mr. Consul Saunders to Viscount Palmerston (No. 14)		August 31, ——	33
	Inclosure			
	Mr. Consul Saunders to the Hon. H. Wellesley		August 31, ——	33
13.	Mr Consul Brant to the Earl of Aberdeen (No. 19)	Erzeroom,	June 26, ——	36
	Inclosure			
	Mr. Consul Brant to Sir Stratford Canning		June 24, ——	36
14.	Mr. Vice-Consul Stevens to the Earl of Aberdeen (No. 2)	Trebizond,	June 21, 1846	38
	Inclosure			
	Mr. Vice-Consul Stevens to Sir Stratford Canning		June 21, ——	38
15.	Mr. Consul Suter to the Earl of Aberdeen (No. 23)	Kaissariah,	June 26, ——	39
	Four Inclosures			
	1. Mr. Consul Suter to Sir Stratford Canning		June 26, ——	39
	2. Mr. Consul Suter to Sir Stratford Canning		July 1, 1845	42
	3. Mr. Vice-Consul Clapperton to Mr. Consul Suter		May 29, ——	42
	4. Average Prices of Articles of Exportation from the Ports of Tarsous, from 1841 to 1844			44
16.	Mr. Vice-Consul Stevens to the Earl of Aberdeen (No. 4)	Samsoon,	June 27, 1846	45
	Inclosure			
	Mr. Vice-Consul Stevens to Sir Stratford Canning		June 27, ——	45
17.	Major Rawlinson to Viscount Palmerston (No. 27)	Bagdad,	August 27, ——	46
	Four Inclosures			
	1. Major Rawlinson to Sir Stratford Canning		August 5, ——	46
	2. Messrs. Hector & Co. to Major Rawlinson		July 30, ——	54
	3. Major Rawlinson to Sir Stratford Canning		August 19, ——	58
	4. Messrs. Lynch & Co. to Major Rawlinson		August 7, ——	58
18.	Mr. Vice-Consul Rassam to the Earl of Aberdeen (No. 1)	Moossul,	July 10, ——	61
	Inclosure			
	Mr. Vice-Consul Rassam to Sir Stratford Canning		July 10, ——	61
19.	Lieut.-Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston (No. 35)	Broumana,	September 8, ——	63
	Eight Inclosures			
	1. Lieut.-Colonel Rose to the Hon. H. Wellesley		August 23, ——	63
	2. Mr. Consul Moore to Lieut.-Colonel Rose		July 29, ——	66
	3. Mr. Taylor to Mr. Consul Moore		July 14, ——	67
	4. Mr. Scott to Mr. Consul Moore		June 30, ——	68
	5. Mr. Heald to Mr. Consul Moore		July 27, ——	68
	6. Messrs. Black and Co. to Mr. Consul Moore		July 10, ——	69
	7. Table of Imports			71
	8. Messrs. Roquerbe and Co. to Mr. Consul Moore		July 28, ——	72
20.	Mr. Consul Werry to the Earl of Aberdeen (No. 9)	Aleppo.	July 20, ——	72
	Three Inclosures			
	1. Messrs. Black and Co. to Mr. Consul Werry		June 29, ——	72
	2. Messrs. Gibb and Co. to Mr. Consul Werry		July 1, ——	74
	3. Mr. Consul Werry to Sir Stratford Canning		July 4, ——	74
21.	Mr. Acting Consul Timoni to Mr. Bidwell (No. 7)	Damascus,	July 31, ——	75
	Two Inclosures			
	1. Mr. Acting Consul Timoni to Sir Stratford Canning		July 28, ——	75
	2. The Merchants of Damascus to Mr. Acting Consul Timoni		July 24, ——	76
22.	Mr. Consul Finn to Viscount Palmerston (No. 12)	Jerusalem,	August 26, ——	77
	Inclosure			
	Mr. Consul Finn to Sir Stratford Canning		August 26, ——	77

No.				Page
23.	Mr. Consul Kerr to the Earl of Aberdeen (No. 12)	Cyprus,	July 4, 1846	78
	Two Inclosures			
	1. Mr. Consul Kerr to Sir Stratford Canning		July 4, ——	78
	2. Articles of Exportation from Cyprus, with duty of 3 and 9 per cent. calculated on their average market price			81
24.	Mr. Consul Ongley to Viscount Palmerston (No. 12)	Crete,	August 19, ——	81
	Two Inclosures			
	1. Articles of Import and Export of which Tariff rates should be changed			83
	2. Treaty of Commerce between Turkey and Russia, of April 30, 1846			85
25.	Mr. Consul-General Warrington to Viscount Palmerston (No. 34)	Tripoli,	August 13, ——	91
	Three Inclosures			
	1. Sir Stratford Canning to Mr. Consul-General Warrington		June 8, ——	91
	2. The Merchants of Tripoli to Mr. Consul-General Warrington		July 30, ——	92
	3. The Merchants of Bengazi to Mr. Consul Wood		July 16, ——	93
26.	Mr. Consul Brant to Viscount Palmerston	Smyrna,	January 21, 1847	94
	Two Inclosures			
	1. Mr. Consul Brant to the Hon. H. Wellesley		January 21, ——	94
	2. Articles of Import into Smyrna on which alterations in the Rates of Duty are considered necessary			97
	3. Articles of Export into Smyrna on which alterations in the Rates of Duty are considered necessary			101
	4. Memorial of Ionian Tavern-keepers		January 5, ——	103

PAPERS

RESPECTING

THE TARIFF OF 1839

WITH

THE PORTE.

No. 1.

Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 7.)

(No. 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August* 14, 1846.

IN pursuance of instructions which I received from his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed copy of a report which I addressed on the 14th instant to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at the Porte, on the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, and on the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade in Turkey.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. CARLTON CUMBERBATCH,

Consul-General.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to the Hon. H. Wellesley.

Sir, *Constantinople, August* 14, 1846.

AGREEABLY to the instructions contained in a despatch circular, dated the 8th of June, of his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, in which I am directed to furnish—

1st. Statements in detail respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, with such suggestions for improvement as I may be able to obtain from British merchants within my district;

2ndly. To furnish any further observations which I may have to offer at the present time respecting the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade with Turkey;

I have now the honour to state with reference to the first point, that the Tariff stands in need of a revision, in consequence of the great fall in the prices of almost all the principal articles of import from Great Britain, and of export from this country since that period.

In 1839 the rates were fixed by the Commissioners upon the current prices of all the principal markets at the time when they were unusually high, and when they must have still been affected by the heavy and uncertain interior duties which were imposed upon them previous to the Convention of 1838.

Since that period various causes have led to a reduction in the prices of almost every article of manufacture imported from Great Britain; they may principally be ascribed to greater cheapness of production, the operation of the Convention, and the increased facilities of transport and communication by steam. These causes being of a permanent nature, it is not to be expected that they will rise again.

The prices of the principal articles of export have also fallen in an equal degree.

I beg to inclose a copy of a letter which I have received from the principal British merchants of this city, to whom I applied for information in conformity with my instructions.

Their report contains a statement of the prices of the present day of the principal articles of import and export, and of the prices upon which the Tariff rates upon them were fixed in 1838.

Taking this statement as the basis of the calculation, it would appear that the rates payable upon the articles therein mentioned according to the existing Tariff, are upon an average 26 per cent. higher than they would be if calculated upon the present prices, as will be seen by the inclosed table.

According to the Seventh Article of the Convention it is stipulated "that the Commissioners shall establish an equitable arrangement for estimating the interior duties which by the present Treaty are established on Turkish goods to be exported." It would appear, however, that the present Tariff rates representing the 9 per cent. interior duties were calculated in the same manner as the rates which represent the 3 per cent. export duties; an arrangement which can hardly be deemed equitable as the rates of export duty are calculated upon the gross price of the merchandize at the ports of shipment, that is, with all the charges of carriage, profit of the seller, and other expenses upon the cost of the articles, which would not be included if in calculating the rates for interior duty the provisions of the Fourth Article of the Convention were taken into consideration, which stipulates that merchandize shall be liable to the 9 per cent. duty on its entry into a convenient place of shipment.

It would be very desirable if the commercial regulations of this country with the different foreign nations trading with it could be rendered uniform, and if one general Tariff could be framed for all, commencing and ending at the same period.

I concur in the opinion of the merchants, that labour would be abridged, and the work more efficiently performed, if the Commissioners of the different nations which are about to revise their Tariffs were each to fix the rates upon the articles of import which more immediately interest their trade, and if they co-operated and formed the whole into a general Tariff; but it may be questionable whether their suggestion that the new Tariff should be made to extend until the expiration of the Russian Tariff would be advantageous to British interests.

The Russian Tariff was to take effect from the 13th of October, 1842, and was to last for twelve years from that period. Subsequently, by the late Treaty between Russia and the Porte, its duration has been extended until the expiration of the Treaty; it will therefore not expire until April 1856, instead of October 1854, as supposed by the merchants. This difference in time is material. It has been seen during the last seven years how much the prices of all the principal articles of trade have fallen: and taking into consideration the continual progress that is made in the production of British manufactures,—the rapidly-increasing facilities of transport,—as well as the measures which have passed the British Parliament during the present session, it seems more than probable that the prices will still continue to fall. If this expectation be realized, the sooner the Tariff is revised again, the more advantageous it will be for British interests.

With respect to the second point upon which I am called to report,—namely, "the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade in Turkey,"—there can be no doubt that the effect of the Commercial Convention has been very beneficial, and that it has worked favourably for British trade. The imports have gradually increased since 1840,

as the returns I herewith inclose will serve to show. Since I entered upon the duties of my office on the 1st July 1845, I have only had cause for official interference in two complaints from British merchants within my district: one from Messrs. Hayes, Lafontaine, and Co., against the authorities of Augora, for levying, under the denomination of Iktissab, a duty upon goods purchased by their agents for exportation; against which I protested, in conformity with my instructions. The other, of Messrs. Whittall and Watson, against the Tanners of Scutari and the Seven Towers, who on several occasions interfered with agents employed by them for purchasing sheep-skins in the capital.

In the first case, I understand that the authorities at Augora attempted to justify the exaction of the illegal duties, upon the grounds that they were levied upon the grower or seller, and not upon the purchasers.

In the second case, the Tanners maintained their exclusive right to purchase sheep-skins within the capital, in virtue of an ancient firman; and although the Turkish authorities overruled this pretension in every instance upon which I had occasion to address them, still Messrs. Whittall and Watson were liable to continual molestation as long as the firman remained in existence.

The withdrawal of this firman, and the exclusive privileges conferred by it—which you were pleased to communicate to me in your despatch of the 8th instant—will therefore remove any pretext for further molestation on the part of the Tanners with the purchasers of this article.

The resolution of the Porte to take immediate measures to force the authorities at Augora to refund the Iktissab duties illegally levied on the goods belonging to Messrs. Hayes, Lafontaine, and Co., it is to be hoped, when carried into execution, will have a desirable effect upon the authorities of that district; but as long as these and other interior duties are in existence, it is to be apprehended that complaints will arise.

The lengthened persistance of the authorities at Augora, in maintaining the legality of these duties,—the difficulties the Porte appears to have experienced in enforcing its injunctions, have produced in these instances a delay which is incompatible with the interests of trade.

It is to be observed that the principal trade between Great Britain and Constantinople is in the hands of foreign and native merchants. Except in the neighbouring Broussa district, few purchases are made of produce by British merchants of this city in the interior. This may account perhaps for so few complaints having been made to me.

The Iktissab and other existing interior duties have been lately proclaimed by a Hatti-Sheriff of the Sultan to be oppressive, and are to be partially abolished in the month of May next.

It is to be hoped that this partial measure will lead to their total abolition; that trade and agriculture may be relieved from the vexations and pressure which they occasion; and that the Porte, while exercising its rights of internal administration, will not suffer the existence of any duties hereafter which tend to counteract, either directly or indirectly, the privileges accorded to British subjects by the Convention.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. CARLTON CUMBERBATCH,
Consul-General.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

The British Merchants at Constantinople to Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Galata, July* 20, 1846.

WE have respectively received your communication of the 9th instant, wherein it is stated that you had been instructed by Her Majesty's Ambassador to furnish statements in detail respecting several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, and to that end you request us to report thereon.

This we take leave to do conjointly, rather than by separate answers to your inquiry, and transmit herewith

1st. A note showing the price at which the chief articles of British manufactures and twist were rated in the Tariff of duties of 1839, and of their present value in this market.

2nd. A similar note of some of the leading articles of export, which clearly establishes the necessity of a revision of the Tariff; not, however, as exclusively applicable to those articles, but with reference to a general revision, in order that the Turkish authorities may have the benefit of any changes that may be found favourable to their interest.

It seems to us very desirable in the revision about to take place, that (as every foreign Tariff is about to be revised, excepting that of Russia) the commissioners of each nation should confine themselves exclusively to such articles as more particularly interest the commerce of their respective countries, as by this means their labours (as well as those of the Turks) would be greatly abridged and the work more efficiently performed, after which the whole might be formed into one general Tariff.

We would venture further to suggest (as the Russian Tariff will expire in 1854, and our contemplated will terminate in 1853) how far it may not be desirable that arrangements be made for the extension of the period of our Tariff, so as to start in future from one fixed and uniform rate.

As it appears inadmissible that we should, as we had previously suggested, be allowed to regulate our duties of customs subsequent to the expiration of the Tariff according to the rates about to fixed, we trust at least, that it may please our authorities to provide against any unnecessary delay that might arise on the part of the Turkish Government, which we have the more reason to apprehend from the fact of its being their interest to do so.

We are at a loss to know by the terms of your inquiry how far our observations ought to extend; but it seems to us not irrelevant to the question to state, that we learn from the French Commissioners already named for the revision of their Tariff, that they have been furnished with a copy of the new Russian Commercial Convention, and that it has served to guide them in their report on some points connected with a revision of their Tariff.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) T. R. BLACK,
WOOD, JANIOU, & Co.
CHAS. HANSON & Co.
WHITTALL AND WATSON,
HAYES, LAFONTAINE, & Co.
CHAS. EDE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Table showing the difference of the Prices on certain Articles of Importation and Exportation in 1838 *and* 1846, *and the difference per cent. on the Tariff Rates calculated upon the Prices at those periods.*

IMPORTATIONS.

Names of Articles.	Rated in the Tariff of 1839.	Prices on which the rates in 1838 were calculated.	Present Prices.		Rate of Duties estimated on the present average prices.	Difference		Observations.
						In Rates.	Per Cent.	
	Aspers.	Piastres.	Piastres.	Average.	Aspers.	Aspers.		
Cotton Twist	63 p. oke	17½ p. oke.	8¼ to 15	11⅓	41 p. oke.	22	35	
Grey Calicoes of every description (what are termed "Grey Madapollams" not included)	73 „	20 „		13⅓	48 „	25	34	
Cambries, common	½ piece, 12 yards	30 p. piece.	17 „ 33	25	90 p. piece.	18	16⅔	
Do. do.	½ „ 24 „	71 „	53 „ 70	61½	221 „	34	13⅓	
Do. twilled	24 „	50 „	32 „ 63	47½	169 „	11	6	
Lappets, common	½ „ 10 „	27¾ „	17 „ 28	22½	81 „	19	19	
Do. good harness spriggs, &c.	10 „	55 „	25 „ 30	27½	99 „	99	50	
Madapollams, grey	36 in. „ 40 „	78 „	30 „ 45 col	37½	135 „	63	31½	
Do. white	do. „ 40 „	83½ „	52 „ 57	54½	196 „	84	30	
Muslins, Sevaspoor	do. „ 20 „	27½ „	52 „ 62	57	205 „	95	31½	
Do. Do.	44 in. „ 20 „	37½ „	20 „ 22	21	75 „	25	25	
Do. Jaconets	do. „ 20 „	43⅜ „	27 „ 30	28⅜	102 „	33	24½	
Mulls for printing	do. „ 20 „	41⅔ „	35 „ 40	37½	135 „	20	13	
Do. for Yazmaks	20 „	69½ „	35 „ 40	37½	135 „	15	10	
Muslin, book	44 in. „ 10 „	27½ „	53 „ 55	54	194 „	56	22	
Nankeens, striped and plain	40 pikes	55½ „	20 „ 35	27½	99 „	1	1	
Printed Calicoes, navy blues, light ground plates, and all prints of 1 or 2 colors	½ piece, 28 yards	49 „	30 „ 32	31	112 „	88	44	
Printed Calicoes of 3, 4, and 5 colors	¼ „ 28 „	79¼ „	32 „ 42	37	133 „	43	24½	
Printed Muslins of all widths and qualities	24 „	100 „	35 „ 85	60	216 „	69	24	
Zebra Shawls, blue and white, blue and orange, and green and orange stripes	3½ yards	26¼ „	45 „ 85	65	234 „	126	35	
Zebra Shawls, 2 covers (Fermaish)	3½ „	41⅔ „	16 „ 17	16½	60 „	35	37	
Do. blue ground pine dresses for Persia	3½ „	40 „	26 „ 28	27	97 „	53	35½	
Velveteens	30 „	130 „	20 „ 23	21½	77 „	67	46½	
Do. printed	30 „	200 „	100 „ 110	105	380 „	88	18¾	
			150 „ 200	175	630 „	90	12½	

The prices on which the rates in 1838 were calculated, and the present prices, are taken from the statement referred to in the report of the merchants.

The average difference per cent., according to this Table, would be 26 per cent.; but as the Importations consist chiefly of the lower and middling qualities of goods, there would be a further difference of 4 or 5 per cent.

The average difference per cent. of the Exports is the same as the Imports.

EXPORTATIONS.

	Internal.	Export.		Internal.	Export.	Difference in Rates.		
	As.	As.		P.	P.	P.		
Silk, Brussa	2,160	720	200 p. oke.	130 to 160	145	1,566	522	594	198	or 27½ per cent.
Wool, Sheep's	2,214	738	205 p. cantar.	140 „ 180	160	1,728	576	486	162	„ 21¼ „
Valonea	720	240	66⅔ „	40 „ 55	47½	513	171	207	69	„ 28¾ „
Opium	1,090	363	100 p. chequee.	68 „ 72	70	756	252	334	111	„ 30½ „

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Return of the Principal Articles of Export shipped at Constantinople for Great Britain, in British Vessels, during the following years.

Years.	Silk.			Opium.	Yellow Berries.	Galls.	Boxwood.	Otto of Roses.	Wool.					Hides and Skins.					Valonea.	Corn and Seeds.					Tobacco, &c.	Madder Roots.	Hazel Nuts.	Specie.	Observations.
	Bales and Cases.	Refuse Silk.	Persian Silk.						Mohair Yarn.	Angora Goat's.	Goat's Hair.	Sheep's	Lamb's.	Ox Hides.	Goat Skins.	Sheep Skins.	Lamb Skins.	Hare Skins.		Wheat, chiefly Russian.	Barley.	Indian Corn.	Linseed, partly Russian	Aniseed.				
		bales	ballots	cases	sacks	sacks	tons (about)	cases	bales	bales	bls.	bales	bls.	bales.	number	bls.	bls.	bls.	tons about	quarters.	kilos	kilos	sacks		cases & bls.	sacks		value	
1840	3382	part	Persian	2	552	672	109	11	..	5026	..	1321	..	..	..	..	57	..	174	3170	..	..	741	..	..	..	252	..	It is not possible to give the invoice values of these articles. The falling off in the exports of Silk in 1845 is to be ascribed to the state of the markets of this country and England, in consequence of which silk was exported to Marseilles and other foreign markets in preference.
1841	3686	part	Persian	500	422	647	300	..	19	5248	72	587	..	..	1500	..	18	..	..	3750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1842	2877	173	..	65	568	554	750		614	5469	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	12	17	kilos 48,235	..	..	90	..	10	18	..	..	
1843	2886	10	343	327	533	146	1350	3	Goat's Wool ..	2910	..	1150	..	338 in number.	..	..	..	..	91	..	..	..	kilos 16,000 Russian	20	3	26	577	6870	
1844	3198	1	491	83	657	23	242	8	..	4249	..	410	10	..	..	36	..	..	32	..	19,300	..	..	..	..	2	10	..	3200	
1845	1874	..	184	101	894	98	250	28	..	5102	..	1069	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100,182	39,020	12,600	..	..	3	..	kintals. 200	33,100	

Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

Approximate Value of Imports from Great Britain to Constantinople during the following years:—

Years.	By Sailing Vessels.							By Steamers.		By Foreign Vessels.	Totals.
	From Liverpool.	From London.	From Bristol.	From Glasgow.	Coals.	Coke.	Iron.	Tin Plates.	From London and Southampton.	From Liverpool.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1840	832,500	305,000	..	..	7035	..	45,359	..	..	..	1,189,904
1841	1,044,000	227,500	10,000	18,000	10,000	..	9674	..	..	..	1,319,174
1842	1,109,250	204,167	5,000	..	13,800	..	24,850	..	..	..	1,357,067
1843	1,085,030	274,000	..	..	5922	..	35,057	3321	180,000	..	1,583,320
1844	1,197,800	277,600	..	..	9155	..	23,694	810	449,040	..	1,958,099
1845	989,930	218,476	..	..	6170	888	43,578	1440	587,938	85,100	51,750	1,985,270

No. 2.

Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to Mr. Bidwell.—(Received October 10.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, September 3, 1846.*

WITH respect to the wine-shops the case appears to be this. Under the Commercial Convention of 1838 we claim the right to carry on trade either wholesale or retail "in any manner of trade;" no exception is made. The Ionians have for some time past found it very profitable to set up wine-shops. By treaty there appears to be no reason why they should not do so. These shops interfere very much with the esnaff of wine or wine corporation here: because the Ionians although they are subject to pay the same duties, are not liable to the same taxes, and therefore they can afford to sell wine at a cheaper rate, and undersell the members of the corporation. They therefore became very clamorous at the Porte, and they have continually roused the Mussulman inhabitants to represent to the Porte that the Ionian wine-shops give rise to every sort of disorder. In some instances they may have been partly right, but the greater number of the complaints there is reason to believe have been very much exaggerated; and I have been informed that money has not been spared by the corporations to induce people to come forward and complain.

The Porte therefore appears to have been urged to take some steps to put down these wine-shops, and therefore denounced them as disorderly and a nuisance; and about four years ago, I think, it was settled with the consent of the Embassy, that no Ionians or British subjects should sell wine by the glass; in fact that they should not have tavern-houses, but that they might sell by the bottle, &c. It is well known that the only profitable way for them to sell wine and spirits is by the glass, and therefore under pretence of obeying the regulations, they easily found means to evade them. The Turks complained of these infringements of the regulations, and in order to enforce them punishments were resorted to, at first by short imprisonments, and latterly by closing their shops. Notwithstanding the trade has increased, and they have continued to carry it

on in spite of the prosecutions, which have caused great annoyance to every one concerned in them, and have thrown great labour on the Cancellaria. They have become so bold, in spite of everything that has been done, that of late they have established shops in the neighbourhood of mosques. The new Russian Treaty which admits of these restrictions in the wine trade, may tend to increase these difficulties. I know not exactly what arrangements are in force at present, but if it could have been so settled as not to admit of the imposition of any restrictions, and in case of any complaints arising against the owner of any shop for misbehaviour or disorderly conduct, that each case could be tried according to the usual custom on its own merits, it would perhaps have been more consonant with the existing regulations.

No. 3.

Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 31.)

Constantinople, November 17, 1846.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary, inclosing a copy of a letter which I have received from the principal British merchants in this capital, in which they request that the period may be determined when the rates of the Tariff formed in 1839 shall cease; and propose that, from that time they shall pay on account rates approximating to those of the Tariff which has to be formed or may be in process of formation; with the understanding that their accounts with the custom-house shall be adjusted when the Tariff is completed.

Since the expiration of the Tariff on the $\frac{1}{13}$th of last March, the accounts of the merchants have remained unsettled; but the chief customer has now begun to claim the payment of duties, and has asserted that, being guided by the practice which obtained after the expiration of the previous Tariff in 1834, he will charge the duties according to the rates of the old Tariff of 1839 until he receives contrary instructions from the Porte.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. CARLTON CUMBERBATCH,
Consul-General.

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to the Hon. H. Wellesley.

Constantinople, November 14, 1846.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a letter which has been addressed to me by some of the principal British merchants of this city, in which they renew their request to be relieved from the pressure of the rates of the Tariff formed in 1839 in the manner proposed in their letter of the 20th July, a copy of which I had the honour to transmit with my despatch of the 14th August last.

I had lately occasion to apply to the custom-house in behalf of an Ionian merchant named G. Tamvaco, who complained that his goods, consisting of British manufactures, had been retained until the duties upon them were settled according to the rates of the Tariff of 1839, the payment of which he resisted upon the grounds that that Tariff had

expired on the $\frac{1}{13}$th March, and that it had not been determined what duties subsequently to that period, and until the revision of the new Tariff, ought to be charged.

On that occasion the chief customer declared that he must continue to exact the duties according to the Tariff of 1839 in the same manner as was practised after the expiration of the previous Tariff in 1834, unless he received contrary instructions from the Porte.

From the inquiries I have made among the British merchants who are principally concerned in the import trade, it does not appear that they have been called upon by the custom-house for some time past to settle their accounts, but they have been allowed to remain open for so long a time, that it may be expected that they will soon be required to do so.

It would be therefore desirable if an equitable arrangement could be effected on the subject with the Porte before that time.

It would be very onerous to them if the practice which obtained at the expiration of the previous Tariff in 1834, be held as a precedent to be followed on the present occasion, and if the payment of the rates of the Tariff of 1839 were enforced until the indefinite period of the completion of the new Tariff; and in transmitting a copy of their letter, I therefore beg to recommend the subject to your consideration.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. CARLTON CUMBERBATCH,
Consul-General.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

The Principal British Merchants of Constantinople to Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch.

Constantinople, November 11, 1846.

Sir,

ON the 20th July we had the honour of laying before you statements in proof of the necessity of a revision of the Tariff of Duties which expired in March last.

We took leave at the same time to suggest, that Her Majesty's Government would be pleased to provide against any unnecessary delay that might arise on the part of the Turkish authorities, by fixing a period, beyond which the rate of duties shall be taken, according to the Tariff yet to be formed, otherwise it might be expected that the Porte would seek to defer the renewal of it to an indefinite period.

Nearly four months have expired, without our having any intimation of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government; meanwhile the British trade labours under oppressive duties, and therefore we again take the liberty of calling your attention to the subject.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) T. R. BLACK.
WOOD, JANIOU, & Co.
CHARLES EDE.
CHAS. HANSON & Co.
HAYES, LAFONTAINE, & Co.
WHITTALL & WATSON.
P. pro R. B. ABBOTT.
V. A. GUYS.

No. 4.

Mr. Consul Lander to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October .)

My Lord, *Dardanelles, September* 8, 1846.

IN compliance with instructions received from Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, I have the honour to wait upon your Lordship with the annexed copy of my despatch to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary, the Honourable Henry Wellesley, under date of to-day, together with copies of the report and statement therein alluded to, having reference to amendments suggested to be made in various articles of the Tariff concluded in March 1839, in virtue of the capitulations and Treaties entered into between Her Majesty's Government and the Sublime Ottoman Porte.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. A. LANDER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Mr. Consul Lander to the Hon. H. Wellesley.

Sir, *Dardanelles, September* 8, 1846.

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Excellency the annexed copy of a report which has this day been handed in to me by Mr. F. W. Calvert, in reply to the circular despatch addressed to him by his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, under date of the 8th June last past, whilst in charge of the duties of this Consular office, during my late absence on Government leave; and having satisfied myself as to the correctness of the information contained therein, I beg permission to confirm its contents in every respect, and to recommend the amendments suggested by Mr. Calvert on various articles in the Tariff, as calculated to place British interests concerned in the export trade from these parts of Turkey, upon a more desirable footing than they now enjoy by the existing Tariff of 1839.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. A. LANDER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Mr. Calvert to Mr. Consul Lander.

Sir, *Dardanelles, August* 27, 1846.

IN compliance with the instructions transmitted to me by his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, by his despatch marked circular, of 8th June last, I have the honour to wait upon you with the accompanying statement of the different articles exported from this Consular jurisdiction, on which it is highly necessary for the interests of British merchants that the duties according to the Tariff of 1839 should be modified.

I have not entered on the subject of imports, in consequence of all goods arriving from the United Kingdom being brought from Constantinople or Smyrna, at which places the duties are paid.

11

The principal disadvantage with which the British trade had hitherto to contend, namely, the privileges enjoyed up to the present moment by the subjects of Russia, being removed by the Commercial Treaty recently concluded between that country and the Porte, I consider the existing regulations as calculated in every way to favour British commerce with Turkey.

I cannot, however, conclude without pointing out an undue advantage taken by Ottoman subjects of the Second Article, which provides for the protection of British subjects or their agents. Turkish subjects, though engaged in commercial transactions for their own account, as soon as they experience any difficulties, often find the means of getting a British or Ionian subject to lend their names to operations which are essentially Turkish, and thus to obtain that Consular interference in their favour which they would not otherwise be entitled to. Such circumstances, to say the least, cannot fail to place Consuls in a disagreeable position towards the local authorities, who view in a disadvantageous light the protection thus granted to one of their own subjects.

I would therefore venture to suggest, for the purpose of remedying the evil as much as possible, that no Ottoman subject be entitled to Consular protection as agent for a British merchant, without being previously duly constituted as such at the British Consulate, whose jurisdiction extends over the district in which he intends to carry on commercial operations;

That, after being thus constituted agent for a British merchant, the local authorities be officially informed of the fact;

That all contracts or other engagements entered into between such an agent and the people of the country, be made out in the name of the merchant for whose account he is acting; and

That any engagements contracted by the agent of a British merchant, previous to his having been thus duly recognized, as well as those made out in his own name, be not considered as British interests.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) F. W. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 4.

Statement of the principal Articles exported within the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Consulate at the Dardanelles, with such alterations as it is desirable should be made in the rates of duty established by the Tariff of 1839.

Articles.	Present rate of Duty.		Duty as it should be made.		Remarks.
	9 per cent.	3 per cent.	9 per cent.	3 per cent.	
	Aspres.	Aspres.	Aspres.	Aspres.	
Galls, per quintal:					
Blue	3,888	1,296	3,888	1,296	Considerable quantities of white and inferior qualities of Galls being exported from this district, the relative mean value of which is Ps. 132 and Ps. 69 per quintal, a distinction should be made, as pointed out, in the duties levied.
White ..	3,888	1,296	1,426	475	
Inferior qualities	3,888	1,296	713	238	
Cotton, per quintal:					
Roumelia .	2,214	738	1,800	600	The prices of Cotton have fallen considerably within this district, and the average price for the last four years being about Ps. 176 per quintal for the produce of both Roumelia and Anatolia, the duties actually levied should be calculated on that basis.
Anatolia	2,554	851			
Wool, per quintal:					
Washed ..	2,214	738	2,214	738	All the Wool from this district being exported unwashed, its average price is not more than Ps. 132 per quintal; a distinction should therefore be made on washed and unwashed wool, and the duty on the latter calculated on the price already mentioned.
Unwashed ..	2,214	738	1,426	475	
Valonea, per quintal:					
1st quality .	720	240	648	216	By the Tariff of 1839, Valonea of all qualities was estimated at Ps. 67½ per quintal, on which basis the duty was calculated. The average price of the first quality of Valonea exported from this district is not, however, higher than Ps. 60; besides this, several inferior qualities of Valonea are exported, varying in price from Ps. 40 to Ps. 10 per quintal; the rates established by the Tariff should therefore be altered as here recommended.
2nd do.	720	240	432	144	
Refuse .. .	720	240	270	90	
Black	720	240	108	36	

(Signed) F. W. CALVERT.

Dardanelles, August 27, 1846.

No. 5.

Mr. Consul Blunt to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 19.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 10, 1846.

IN conformity with instructions from his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, G.C.B., I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, inclosed, a copy of my report containing suggested amendments for the projected revision of the Tariff of 1839.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHAS. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Mr. Consul Blunt's Report, containing suggested amendments for the projected revision of the Tariff of 1839.

IN transmitting the annexed list of the several articles of the Tariff of 1839, both of imports and exports, which appear to require amendment, also copies of the communications received from the British merchants established at Salonica upon the same subject, the Undersigned begs leave to state, in reference to those articles of import which are too highly rated in the Tariff of 1839, it must be observed that the greater portion of British produce and manufactures imported are the low qualities. The only articles of export in the Tariff which, as far as regards the trade within the jurisdiction of this Consulate, are subject to too high an evaluation, are silks, tobaccos, wool, cotton, and olive oil. With respect to silk, the Undersigned has noted the different localities of production and rates of average value, from which it will appear that the finer qualities of Salonica raw silks are undervalued, but that all raw silks from other towns within the jurisdiction of this Consulate are overvalued; it would therefore be more equitable if the finer qualities of Salonica raw silks were valued at 210 piastres per oke, and all the lower qualities, the produce of Salonica and other places named in the annexed list, at 140 piastres per oke.

The high rates at which all the qualities, except one, of tobacco, the produce of Roumelia, are fixed in the Tariff of 1839, is a very serious tax upon the trade in that article; if, therefore, all the tobaccos from the districts named in the annexed list were valued at 2½ piastres per oke, excepting the Yenigé Karrassû, which ought to be valued at 6 piastres per oke, it would be more equitable. The Yenigé Karrassû and the Persolza tobaccos are very seldom exported; the greater part of these two latter qualities of tobacco are consumed in Turkey. Wools and cottons from Macedonia and Roumelia are not equal in quality to those from other parts of Turkey; hence the average value ought to be admitted instead of that at which the better qualities produced in other districts in the Ottoman dominions are rated. Olive oil produced within the jurisdiction of the Consulate of Salonica is from Volo, but is not equal in quality to that from other places in Turkey; hence the average evaluation ought to be admitted in lieu of classing the Volo oils with those of Mytelene, Ivalee, Candia, &c.

The prices of the different articles of export noted in the annexed list is the average of the last five years.

With reference to the disadvantages accruing to the import trade of British manufactures at Salonica, owing to the high evaluation put upon the goods in the Tariff of 1839, subjecting the importer to the payment of from 7 to 10 per cent., instead of the 5 per cent. (including the 2 per cent. internal duty) established by the Convention of Balta Liman, still the trade has, nevertheless, considerably increased in this part of Turkey since the period of its publication, as appears by the following note of imports from 1840:—

	£
1840	22,000
1841 . . .	41,000
1842	73,165
1843	74,019
1844	98,737
1845	132,817

And the increase would have been to a greater extent, were it not for the construction which the Turkish authorities put upon the IIIrd Article of the Convention, in reference to British manufactures. The interpretation which the Turkish authorities are pleased to give to this Article is, that all articles of cotton, silk, and wool manufacture, whether British or

Foreign, which are sold to Ottoman subjects, and are in any way cut, stitched, or coloured, thereby become articles of Turkish manufacture, and are subject to a duty of 12 per cent. customs, and 2 per cent. Intisab; thereby subjecting British manufactures (since the Turkish authorities pretend that British cotton manufactures are but raw materials) to a duty of 19 per cent. instead of 5 per cent.

The Undersigned presumes further to add, that as the importers' expenses (which latter observation may be admitted, to show the total weight of charges upon such goods as are brought within the construction which the Turks put upon the article in question) amount to 12½ per cent., the total weight of charges and duty upon some kinds of British produce and manufactures before coming into the hands of the consumers, is 31½ per cent.; but in the interior, the evil is far greater, which is by no means surprising in a country like Turkey, which staggers under the weight of that barefaced system of corruption which is manifest in every branch of its administration. Since this 3rd Article, with the construction which is put upon it, is availed of by the farmers of the customs and Intisab duties in the interior to the detriment of the internal trade, and there have been instances in the more remote towns in the interior of the fiscal officers having levied a second duty of 12 per cent. customs and 2 per cent. Intisab upon these goods of Turkish manufacture in the hands of the buyer! This, however astounding it may appear, is a well-known fact, and here reported as an evidence of the oppressive system of corruption exercised by the minor authorities in the interior, and of the advantages taken of the construction put upon the 3rd Article in question. It would therefore appear that there really exists some secret understanding between the Turkish Minister who sells the right of farming the Intisab and custom dues in the interior; for, as regards the Intisab, the tariff which is delivered to the farmers of that duty makes no mention of any right to levy duties of any kind upon foreign or other manufactures that have already paid import duty; the Intisab tariff only allows that officer to levy a duty on shops, warehouses, and trades.

The 3rd Article in question is adopted in the new Russian Convention, in which the 5th Article is a copy, with the further most onerous addition that it is dependent upon the 6th Article of that Convention.

The Undersigned ventures to hazard his humble opinion with respect to this 3rd Article of the Convention of Balta Liman, that it is of the utmost importance to British trade in Turkey, that it should be more clearly defined; the Article states, "and in any manner of trade therein the same duties that are paid in similar circumstances by the most favoured class of Turkish subjects engaged in the internal trade of Turkey, whether Musulmans or Rayas." It depends much therefore for Her Majesty's Consuls in Turkey to inquire and know who are the more favoured classes of Musulmans and Rayas? in what consist the immunities which render them in a commercial sense so favoured, that the British merchant would find it to his advantage to avail himself of the exemptions which they enjoy? The Article may probably refer to Barathes, a class of Ottoman subjects who purchase a berat, which gives them the right of paying duties the same as Franks, and of settling their commercial disputes at the custom-house, or of referring them to Constantinople.

There is certainly another class of favoured individuals in Turkey, who obtain the right of monopolies and the farming of duties at a very low rate of purchase, and who, upon the strength of that favour, tax the Rayas in the interior with the most exorbitant duties. These are the only class of favoured Ottoman subjects, whether Musulman or Rayas, that the Undersigned ever heard of, after a residence of twenty-seven years in Turkey.

The Undersigned humbly begs to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the 5th and 6th Articles of the Russian Convention, the which, if adopted, would not only be the means of driving thousands of British-protected subjects out of Turkey, but would also strike a most ruinous blow at the British import trade. Few importers would be able to run off their stocks if the provision of the 6th Article were to be enforced, most of the buyers from the interior make their regular trips to

this place, as they do all large commercial town in Turkey, and select small lots of goods, some of them taking perhaps only one or two pieces of each article, and a few bundles of the different kinds of twist, and this it may be added is the best trade, as they are all cash payments; if then the importer is deprived of this advantage he is entirely thrown upon the hands of the esnaffs or trades (for all the different trades are termed esnaffs), and thereby reduced to accepting the onerous terms of long credit offered by the esnaffs.

The Undersigned begs leave to state, with reference to the 4th Article in the Russian Convention, that it is usual with the importers at Salonica to pay 4 per cent. upon their goods in the first instance when imported, which arrangement the customer willingly accepts, instead of depending upon the uncertainty of receiving the 2 per cent. additional duty upon the sale of the goods for the interior.

The annexed report of Messrs. Abbott Brothers refers to the dervent dues, and complains of such duties having been levied upon grain purchased by these gentlemen or their agents; but they have omitted to state that these duties of which they complain were levied upon their goods prior to April 1845, at which period his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning obtained a most categorical order from the Porte prohibiting the levy of this duty upon British property; and since the reception of this order at Salonica upon the sale of these duties it is always stipulated (which is inserted in the bonyourdi) that no dervent dues are to be levied upon British property; hence since April 1845, the Undersigned has had but few applications of any infringement of this order by the farmers of the dervent dues; and when such application has been made the amount taken has invariably been returned. Messrs. Chasseaud and Vaffiardy make no mention of these dervent dues.

That the dervent dues are a heavy tax upon the internal trade in the hands of the native merchant there can be no doubt, more so probably that the Porte is aware of; and it is also clear that such dues which are arbitrarily levied upon Ottoman subjects, become a heavy tax upon all kinds of goods going to and coming from the interior.

With respect to the assertion advanced by Messrs. Abbott Brothers relating to the officers of the custom-house of one Turkish port not acknowledging the validity of the teskéré or permit of the customs of another Turkish port, the Undersigned has no knowledge of any British subject within the jurisdiction of Her Majesty's Consulate at Salonica, having had cause to complain of this infraction of the Convention of Balta Liman.

(Signed) CHAS. BLUNT,
Consul.

Salonica, September 30, 1846.

IMPORTS.

Articles.	Value per Tariff of 1839.	Duty 3 per cent.	Average Value.	Duty 3 per cent.
Manufactures—		Aspers.		Aspers.
Cotton Twist	17½	63	11½	28
Muslins Tanjibs, ¾	28	100	20	72
„ 20 yards, 36 inches				
„ „ ¾	38	135	25	90
Mulls, 36 inches, 20 yards	38	135	25	90
„ ¾ 20 yards	45	155	33	120
Lappets, 10 inches	28	100	20	72
„ fine	55	198	35	135
Nankeens	56⅛	200	30⅓	108
Velvets, Cotton	130	468	100	358
Madapolams, 36 inches, 40 yards ..	65	300	55	195
„ Grey, 36 inches, 24 yards	57	198	35	126
Zebra Shawls	27	95	21	75
Cambrics, Spinath, ¼	71	255	62	223
„ plain, ¼	30	108	28	101
Dimities, 24 yards	50	180	38	136
Calicoes, White, ¼	35	126	34	122
Long Cloths, 36 yards	63	226	54	194
Shawls, Fermaish, 3 yards	42	150	34	122
Indigo	100	360	80	286
Coffee	6½	23	5	18
Cloves	15	54	14	50
Iron in bars or rods	56	200	42	150
„ plates	65	234	50	180
Nutmegs	80	288	45	162
Shot	150	540	140	494
Pepper, black	6½	19	4½	16
Rum	4½	15	3½	13
Sal Ammoniac	8⅓	30	7	25
Sugar, loaf	300	1080	260	936
„ crushed	235	828	225	810

EXPORTS.

Articles.	Rate per Tariff of 1839.	Average Rate.
Silk, Salonica, 1st quality façon Piemonte	200	230
—— „ 2nd „ „	200	165
—— Village	200	130
—— Drama	200	120
—— Aïjah	200	140
—— Volo	200	120
—— Tricala	200	130
Tobacco, Drama	5½	13
—— Basma Drama	5½	13
—— Persefza	5½	4½
—— Demerli	5½	13
—— Yenidgé	5½	13
—— „ Caraasu	5½	7
—— Strumgia	5½	2½
—— Armiró (Volo)	5½	5½
Wool	305	176
Cotton	205	110
Oil	1 0	205

CHAS. BLUNT,
Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

Messrs. Abbott Brothers to Mr. Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Salonica, September 15, 1846.*

WE have had the honour to receive your letters of the 19th of June and 7th instant, and in conformity to your invitation we beg to lay under your consideration the following remarks:—

Coffee, West India, is rated at 23 aspers custom duty; the average price may be quoted at 4½ piastres, and the duty of 3 per cent. should be only 16 aspers per oke.

Cotton Twist is valued at the high rate of 17½ piastres, while the medium price brought into Turkey at large is 12¼ piastres, because it is seldom sold for more, those No. ⅛, 11 piastres; No. 10/10, 13; No. 12/12, 14; No. 20/20, 16; we say at 12½ piastres, because the consumption is mainly in the lower qualities, and therefore the adequate import duties should be 45 aspers.

Coffee Cups. Those we receive from England are sold here at 50 piastres the hundred, and so the duty stipulated amounts to 8 per cent.

Hides, dry, American. These are of different sizes, and the Tariff ought to charge by the weight; on an average the weight of each

hide may be said to be 11 okes. This article is sold for cash at 7½ to 8 piastres per oke.

Indigo in chests. Its market price is 80 piastres per oke, though in the Tariff it is valued at 100 piastres, and it is sold at 61 days' trust.

English manufactures, such as Long-cloths, grey ditto, Madapollams, Cambries, Prints, &c., &c., have been estimated at a time when their quality was superior than at present, and suited to the then state of the market; but as at present the customers look for lower and cheaper qualities, the duty in proportion to the value is equivalent to 7 per cent. This is a subject worthy of the attention of our Government, for if neglected the consequences may be serious to our trade. The duty on superior or inferior qualities being the same, the importers will naturally turn their attention to foreign markets.

The Porte has instituted two orders of custom-houses, and if a merchant passes his goods through a custom-house of the second order, such as Scio, Mytilene, &c., and then transports them to a place where the custom-house of the first order, the senior officer refuses to acknowledge the validity of his teskéré, and again demands duty on the same goods, directing the merchants to receive back the same paid to the inferior officer; this of course is to impose upon the merchants, and such unlawful obstacles we are of opinion ought to be removed.

In the Tariff of the 16th August, 1838, it is stated that no other duty whatever shall be levied except that of 2 and 3 per cent., but with us it is not the case, English goods are taxed with dervent dues, intisab, batz, &c.; for instance, if a retailer of calicoes, madapollams, &c., makes a shirt, or anything of the kind, he is obliged to pay intisab; this we consider is an abuse and infraction, for the custom-house duty is received on the calicoes and thread, and even on the needle with which the garment is sewed.

The dervent duty is exorbitant. A load of sugar of 100 okes sent to Monastere, ninety miles distant from here, is subject to a duty of 15 to 16 piastres, which is equal to another 3 per cent. A load of iron in bars worth 1*l.*, and which has already paid the duties of 3 and 2 per cent., if sent to Larissa, ninety-three miles distant, is subject to 2*s.* 6*d.* At Dubritza they exact indiscriminately 15 piastres for each load of goods. Batz duty is one piastre per load; so that all these sundry taxes become very heavy and oppressive to merchants. In order therefore to enliven our trade, we consider it necessary that the regulations in the new Tariff be on solid basis, so as to suppress all these abuses.

The third Article in the Tariff must, in our humble opinion, be minutely explained, for as it now stands it affords room for discussion.

About monopolies, whatever agreement shall be entered upon the conditions must be clearly specified, so as to admit of no equivocation, otherwise the consequences may again prove prejudicial to commerce. The Porte, instead of abolishing the monopolies, as agreed upon, has also added to them that of coffee, roasted.

We observe Russia, in her new Tariff with the Porte, engages that none of her merchants shall be allowed to retail goods imported; this engagement we strongly recommend to be rejected, for we venture to say that our trade, which is considerably increasing, will gradually be reduced to nothing. English trade must be unrestrained in every respect, and even a shadow of misunderstanding should be removed out of its way.

It must be observed that the greater consumption of English goods is undertaken by retailers from the interior, who are of small fortune and cannot speculate ten, twenty, or more bales of manufactures at once, and very often neither the whole bale of a sole article. These petty merchants apply weekly for whatever goods they may be in want of, and transport them to different markets for sale. If, therefore, this facility be denied them, they will turn their attention to the Trieste market, and our goods will languish in the stores, who can tell for how long, and consequently the trade will be limited.

For goods exported we must again complain of the dervent on wheat, maize, &c., besides 9 and 3 per cent., we are obliged to pay the dervent

dues when we receive the grains from the interior. We are informed that the Porte has lately imposed another duty on tobaccoes, but to what extent we have not as yet been able to ascertain. Assuring you, Sir, that we shall at any time be happy to afford you all possible information you will require of us,

We have, &c.,
(Signed) ABBOTT BROTHERS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 5.

Messrs. Chasseaud & Co. to Mr. Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Salonica, September* 28, 1846.

IN reply to your despatches of the 19th of June and of the 7th instant, by which you make us known the desire of Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Ottoman Porte to be furnished by us with statements respecting the different points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment; we join to hand annexed prospectus of average prices, upon which should be taken the basis of stipulating the duties in the reform of a new tariff.

Between the great wants in the existing Tariff, we beg to note one which is of great consideration, namely, that the commerce should have the prerogative to pay in nature the custom-house duty from the article itself, though tariffed, in case of disagreement.

On many articles of produce of the Ottoman Empire, the Government receives besides the duty specified in the Tariff, an extra duty from the seller; which of course falling upon the merchandize, renders the price of the same very heavy. It would be therefore highly desirable that the Turkish Government should not be allowed to aggravate the cultivators with any further duty, under any denomination whatever, besides the dime and the Tariff duty.

We dare hope that Her Majesty's Government will further take into consideration, in stipulating a new Tariff, not to put her subjects under those of any favoured nation.

We have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY CHASSEAUD,
STEFO. VAFFIARDY & CO.

Average Prices of Articles of Importation.

	Piastres.		Piastres.
Steel	220 per case	Ditto, Bengal	75 per oke
Logwood	95 per kin.	Cambrics, ¾, 12 yards	28 per piece
St. Martha (Dye woods)	150 „	Ditto, ¾, 24 yards	55 „
Pernambuco (Dye woods)	350 „	Demie Cáton	1½ per yard
Skull Caps, Tuscan	55 to 60 per doz.	Dimities of different qualities	2½ „
Ditto, Austrian	55 to 60 „	Shawls, Zebras, ¾	16 per piece
Ditto, Ditto, inferior	18 „	Ditto, with Flowers	18 „
Ditto, Tunis	75 to 130 „	Prints, ¾ 28 yards, of 2 colours	45 „
Coffee, American	5 per oke	Madapollams, 24 yards	35 „
Cassia Ligain	11 „	Ditto, 40 yards	65 „
Cochineal	90 „	Ticamera	50 „
Twist, Water, English, of different numbers	12 „	Ditto of 20 yards, ¾ (Sivaspor)	20 „
German Cloths, various	30 to 40 per piece	Muslins, Mermer	27 „
Ditto, common	15 to 20 „	Citaris	100 „
Tin, British, in bars	14 per oke	Cutris	125 „
Tin plates	180 per box	Paper, Newyer	18 per ream
Cloves	13 per oke	Ditto, 3 Cappelli	25 „
Shot	3 „	Ditto, ditto, fine	30 „
Indigo, Madras	45 „	Hides, Buenos Ayres	8 per oke
		Boards, Trieste	6 each

	Piastres.		Piastres.
Lead	3½ per oke	Sal Ammoniac, English	7 per oke
Pepper	3½ „	Brimstone	30 per kin.
Gunpowder	7 „	Sugar, in loaves	260 „
Rum	9 per gall.	Ditto, crushed	240 „
Sarsaparella	20 per oke	Ditto, Muscovades	170 „
Soap	135 per kin.	Glass Wares	80 per case

Average Prices of Articles of Exportation.

	Piastres.		Piastres.
Oats	4 per kil.	Bees'-Wax	18 per oke
Wheat	12 „	Cotton	3 „
Maize	7 „	Oil of Olives	3 „
Barley	6 „	Sheep's Wool	3½ „
Rye	7½ „	Silk, fine	180 „
French Beans	15 „	Ditto, common	100 „
Peas	15 „	Tobacco, Drama and Yennige	2 „
Linseed	15 „	Ditto, ditto ditto	4 „
Sesame Seed	25 „	Hazel Nuts	2 „
Rice	1½ per oke		

(Signed) HENRY CHASSEAUD.
STEFO. VAFFIARDY & CO.

No. 6.

Mr. Consul Willshire to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 15.)

Adrianople, June 25, 1846.

My Lord,

IN compliance with the circular of Her Majesty's Ambassador of the 8th instant, calling for information in regard to the working of the Treaty of 1839, with suggestions for its improvement, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of the despatch I have this day addressed to his Excellency, and also copy of a letter received from Messrs. George Schnell and Co., merchants of this city, dated the 23rd instant, both having reference to the said Treaty, which by the direction of his Excellency I submit to your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WM. WILLSHIRE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Mr. Consul Willshire to Sir Stratford Canning.

Adrianople, June 25, 1846.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Excellency's circular of the 6th instant, requesting me to furnish statements in detail respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, and with such suggestions for its improvement as I may be able to obtain from British merchants within this district.

I beg to assure your Excellency that I lost no time in doing so, and I have now the honour of transmitting inclosed the observations of Messrs. Schnell and Co., merchants of this city, whose experience and knowledge of the working of the Tariff of 1839 in regard to the export trade entitle the same to every consideration.

Before proceeding to offer any remarks thereon I beg to observe to your Excellency, that from the inland situation of this city the actual working of the Tariff as regards the import trade does not come within

the knowledge of the mercantile establishments of this place, and consequently on that most important point no suggestion for its amendment has been made. The port of Enos is entirely one of export for the produce of this district.

I beg to confirm the observations of Messrs. Schnell and Co. as regards the exaction of the duty of Intissab; the authorities are careful not to demand the duty from the purchaser, as it would be an infraction of the 4th Article of the Treaty, by which a duty of 9 per cent. *ad valorem* in lieu of all other interior duties is fixed upon every article of Turkish produce purchased for exportation. The duty of Intissab in the way it is exacted falls in fact on the purchaser.

I cannot however approve of the suggestion of Messrs. Schnell and Co. in recommending the articles of silks, wools, and valonea to be placed in the Tariff subject to an *ad valorem* duty, being of opinion that a fixed valuation for calculating the duty of 12 per cent. would be more to the advantage of the merchant, as it prevents the exercise of arbitrary power on the part of the officers of the Customs, or disputes as to the quality or value of the article, &c.

In the article of raw silk, however, a discriminating valuation between the two descriptions, namely short and long reel, seems to be fairly called for. The average price for the three last years has been—

For short reel, about 200 piastres per oke,
„ long reel „ 150 „ „

so that the last description has been subjected to a duty of 15 per cent. instead of 12. I am of opinion that a reduction of 10 to 15 per cent. on the average price above stated is highly desirable, or the raw silk of this country will be excluded from foreign markets, and that a similar rate of reduction is called for on the valuation of the articles of wool and valonea, to meet the exigencies of the times.

I coincide fully in the justness of the remarks of Messrs. Schnell and Co. in regard to otto of roses, that a reduced duty would prove more lucrative than the high one fixed by the present Tariff. It is however right to observe that the valuation fixed by the Tariff is not too high according to the market price; a reduction of the duty to 12 paras per metical or 3 per cent. would therefore encroach upon the basis of the Treaty, which it may not be advisable to disturb.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WM. WILLSHIRE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Messrs. Schnell and Co. to Mr. Consul Willshire.

M. le Consul,

Andrinople, le 23 *Juin*, 1846.

NOUS avons pris connaissance du contenu de la circulaire de son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning que vous nous avez communiquée, par laquelle il désire connaître les vices qui ont pu exister dans le dernier Traité de Commerce de 1838, qui vient d'expirer, et les améliorations qui sont susceptibles d'être introduites dans le renouvellement du Traité dont on va s'occuper.

Nous nous empressons de satisfaire à la demande de son Excellence, d'autant plus que nous allons nous délivrer de la terrible concurrence que nous avons éprouvée durant la période de sept ans de la part des négocians Russes, qui ont joui d'immenses avantages au détriment des négocians Anglais et des autres nations.

La principale infraction du susdit Traité, celle qu'il n'a pas été possible de déraciner malgré les continuelles réclamations, est celle du droit d'Intisab, que les percepteurs ont toujours exigé indistinctement sur les articles destinés à la consommation locale, comme pour ceux exportés pour l'Europe après avoir acquitté le droit interne de 9 pour cent et celui de 3 pour cent

pour la sortie sur les articles exportés, bien que le droit d'Ihtisab perçu des vendeurs rayas, néanmoins cela pesait toujours sur l'acheteur Anglais, car dans la certitude que chacun était, qu'en acquittant le droit entier de 12 pour cent, il ne devait plus payer aucun autre droits ni directement ni indirectement, on spécifiait dans les contrats avec les vendeurs, que tous les droits seraient à la charge de l'acheteur, par conséquent tout article acheté pour l'exportation était taxé d'un droit additionnel de 2½ à 3 pour cent.

Parmi les articles produit de la Turquie qui ont été tarifés à un prix bien plus élevé en comparaison de leur valeur réelle, on peut signaler les soies, laines et valonées; de ces premiers si les courts guindres valent de 180 à 200 piastres l'oque, les longs guindres valent de 120 à 125; il en est de même pour les laines, il y en a du prix de 3 piastres jusqu'à 5 piastres l'oque, et des valonées de 50 piastres le quintal jusqu'à 90 piastres le quintal; cependant tout est tarifé sur le même pied, tandis que si les trois articles étaient tarifés *ad valorem*, il y aurait toujours un avantage pour le négociant, qui payait jusqu'à présent le même droit sur un article de deux valeurs.

Un autre article qui mérite l'attention du Gouvernement Ottoman, c'est l'essence de rose, qui est tarifé à $\frac{5}{10}$ le métical, prix beaucoup trop élevé, vû la facilité que l'on trouve à le soustraire à la douane, comme fait la généralité des acheteurs qui ne se piquent pas trop de délicatesse, tandis que ceux qui veulent conserver leur caractère, sont obligés de renoncer à cette spéculation, car ils ne peuvent pas lutter avec la contrebande, mais si le Gouvernement fixait un prix modéré de 10 à $\frac{12}{10}$ par métical, dans ce cas très peu de personnes hasarderaient de la soustraire, et le Trésor en profiterait d'avantage, au lieu qu'à présent sur une recette annuelle de 120 à 150,000 méticaux que produit la Roumélie, pas même un quart ne figure dans les registres de la douane.

Telles sont, Monsieur le Consul, les observations que nous avons été à même de faire sur le Tarif de 1839, et que vous êtes prié de soumettre à son Excellence.

Nous avons, &c.
(Signé) GEO. SCHNELL & Co.

No. 7.

Mr. Consul Sandison to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 17.)

Brussa, September 2, 1846.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, by direction of Her Majesty's Ambassador, the inclosed report, relating to amendment of the Tariff of 1838 with the Sublime Porte, also one concerning the bearing of existing regulations on British trade with Turkey.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) D. SANDISON,
Consul.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Report relative to the Amendment of the British Tariff of 1838.

IMPORTS. The proper information on this head will be furnished at the capital and other ports where the duties are paid; so that any observations from hence seem scarcely necessary.

EXPORTS. The chief of these and only article material to notice in the trade here, is "raw silk," on which the Tariff rates come to 24 piastres per oke, at 12 per cent. on the valuation of 200 piastres.

This was considered too high at the time; and although I find it has been the average price of silks here during the last seven years, taking the extreme rates for the finest and most inferior sorts, as these were the least considerable in quantity, I compute the aggregate cost to have been 170 to 180 piastres the oke.

Full supplies from China having arrived in England only last year, after a long interruption, which have brought down the prices there to a much lower level, this market has opened for the new season at a heavy decline in consequence.

The finest sorts are now worth but 160 to 170 piastres, the next class 140 to 150 piastres, and the inferior descend to 125 piastres the oke.

It follows that 150 piastres would be rather above the exact medium rate, but may be conveniently selected.

To this might be added 10 piastres for commission and charges to Constantinople, or profits and expences of intermediate traders, making in all 160 piastres per oke; and the 9 per cent. internal customs ought not to be superadded in a valuation at the capital.

The present duties, as paid, of 12 per cent. on 200 piastres, making	24	0
With fees, 7 per cent.	1	27
Amount in all to	25	27
The 12 per cent. on 160 piastres would be	19	8
With fees, 7 per cent.	1	13
Total	20	21

The difference overpaid of piastres 5 46 per oke, comes to very near 3½ per cent. on the actual average value of 160 piastres, and the excess without fees, on 24 piastres, over the corresponding rate of piastres 19 8, is piastres 4 32 per oke, exactly 3 per cent., increasing the customs to 15 per cent. instead of 12 payable by Treaty.

At a proximate period to that when the Tariff of 1838 was settled, the prices of Brussa silk in England had reached their highest pitch. In 1839-40, the finest sold at 24*s.* per lb., if not at 1*s.* to 2*s.* more, the most ordinary at 16*s.* to 16*s.* 6*d.*

Since then amidst occasional fluctuations, there has been a constant prevailing pressure towards decline; and under recent large importations from China, the finest Brussas have gone down to 15*s.* to 16*s.*, other sorts in a descending scale to 10*s.* 6*d.* per lb.

The present rates and prospects would only warrant a valuation of 5 to 10 piastres under 160 piastres per oke, and this or some approximate cypher I would suggest as a reasonable basis in the adjustment of the duties on silk under corresponding circumstances.

To pay *ad valorem* on each package, would I apprehend be found troublesome in the settlement.

Brussa, August 31, 1846.

(Signed) D. SANDISON,
Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Report on the bearing of existing Regulations on British Trade with Turkey.

IN this part of the country the regulations consequent on the operation of our Commercial Convention of 1838 have not given rise to objections, unless as relates to certain internal duties.

British cotton and woollen stuffs being classed as Turkish manufactures,

when in addition to other changes, merely stitched into dresses or other articles for use publicly sold. I last year made a precautionary protest against their being thus subjected to duties of 14½ per cent., and amounting, with fees, to 16 per cent. on their removal to any other place, not a principal seaport, for consumption.

And the imposts were even doubled and tripled on small parcels of such goods found in the possession of people from the country carrying them home; any other British manufactures accompanying being often treated alike.

Of these taxes, over and above the import duties of 5 per cent., the customs of 12 per cent., which were the heaviest, have latterly been abolished by an Imperial edict. And it is announced that the other of 2½ per cent., called "Iktissabie," is to cease in March next.

The burthen, now lightened, was so oppressive as to cause the most marked and serious decay of trade in British imports of every kind, driving away numbers of customers from the market.

Still it might be expedient to determine the liability of the articles in question—the species of new local process, or minimum additional value derived from it, which should entitle any to rank as Turkish manufactures in the event of the renewal of the like imposts.

When British goods are dyed or printed upon, there may be a question how far they lose their title to their primitive character. Where the change is one of form, leaving the substance in appearance unaltered, so that its origin may be easily identified, there is a material difference. Stuffs woven here with British cotton yarn must necessarily, it appears to me, count as Turkish; as might also all articles made of English iron or steel.

The next regulations to notice are relating to the duties on corn imported into the district.

It had been usual for the merchants to settle for these with the custom-house at Constantinople, on expediting the cargoes, or at Ghio, on their being landed. But latterly an Ionian importer there, after entering the quantities according to usage, refused to pay any duties whatsoever on Russian grain, as being only receivable from the buyers for consumption. And strictly, it appears the merchants are not liable, although they have found it most convenient to clear the corn before sale to the consumers.

The footing on which the trade stood is now altered, as I was previously enabled to protect the corn from internal duties, or recover any exacted when reclaimed, in virtue of the proper customs having been paid by the British importer.

The traffic in retail shops for wines and spirituous liquors has been disallowed here, by Her Majesty's Ambassador, to British subjects; and to French and Hellenic subjects by their respective Ministers. But no similar orders having been transmitted by the Austrian, such shops, under that protection, remain open. Nor is the observance of the prohibition for the others very strictly insisted upon by the local authorities.

Perhaps this species of trade might with propriety be subjected to license and some control of the police.

The revocation has not yet been announced of the prohibition of the export of corn for a year, now about expired, issued on account of the failure of the crops of 1845.

The local wants and high prices sufficed to keep in the country what corn there was; occasioning besides large importations, and rendering the prohibition inoperative and superfluous. Although emanated at a time of real and extreme scarcity, it affords no precedent of any inconvenience having attended the unconditional freedom of export and trade in grain, secured by the stipulations of our Convention of 1838, and one of its main objects.

Some few instances, but not recent, have come to my knowledge of the internal duty of 2½ per cent., called "Iktissabie," having been levied on Turkish products bought by British and French merchants. Against this abuse there is a provision in the new Russian Treaty for the protection of the sellers as well as buyers, more specific than in the British.

Her Majesty's subjects engaging in any species of internal trade in Turkish products, are usually called upon to pay only the duties attached to the articles in which they deal. In rare cases, as that of carrying on the business of a licensed wine tavern of which the number is limited here to 13, they would further have to discharge an annual tax of about 10*l.*, the same as rayas.

Their right to manufacture products of the country, I have been instructed is doubtful. But in regard to making candles, it was admitted by a former Governor here, one of the Commissioners who signed our Convention of 1838, to be in conformity; and the Turkish authorities do not, without the consent of the British, assume the power of preventing its exercise.

There has been no opposition to a "Filature" of silk on the French model, established and now much extended by the Russian Vice-Consul, who pays the customary tithe on the product, and a small tax on each reel employed, the same as levied on those of the country.

The local advantages of such enterprises of Europeans, are obvious in the expenditure of capital and introduction of improvements.

In general, however, I find the Turkish authorities latterly object more to British subjects carrying on any sort of trade interfering with that of their Esnafs, comprising the different bodies of shopkeepers, artisans, and others of almost every avocation, on the ground of the competition being detrimental to the revenue, by diminishing the gains of those who pay taxes.

It appears that Russia by the new Treaty with the Porte, published in the semi-official Turkish paper, has amongst other restrictions agreed to, consented to renounce this privilege for her subjects: of these, however, I am assured there is scarcely one born in her dominions, and not in her official service residing in other parts of Turkey more than this, whose interests can be affected in consequence.

On account of the thousands of British and Ionian subjects settled in the various districts, such regulations could scarcely be carried into effect without causing a great disturbance of individual capital or industry resting on the protection of prescriptive usage and treaty.

The alteration would go to preclude them from the advantages of vending in detail our manufactures particularly in the same localities as the native retailers, themselves often importing traders also. Therefore without such reciprocal facility for our merchants, combined with their wholesale business they would not be on a full footing of equality. And I was assured by the chief of a Glasgow import house, who visited this some years ago, that such was the only method of entering into successful competition with the traders of the country, as practised by establishments with which he was connected in other parts of the Mediterranean.

Here, as probably elsewhere, in case of distinctions of locality being made, questions connected with it might probably arise, not easy of adjustment.

The taxes or dues payable by native subjects, incidental to the exercise of their trades are very inconsiderable in amount, as an object in case of being applicable to British subjects under the same circumstances. And as they are always free to sell their goods in any quantity or mode found convenient in their usual store, the restrictive remedy sought could at most be partial.

There is a distinct traffic here of some amount shared by Ionians, in oil, soap, and rice, imported for local consumption, which are occasionally exposed for sale in the open market, although not without opposition having been made to the practice.

It renders them less dependent on the offers of the native shopkeepers who have the exclusive privilege amongst Turkish subjects of retailing these articles; but at taxed rates for each ordered by their authorities, without distinction of quality. It is in consequence furnished by them most frequently adulterated, or of an inferior description, against which the only protection for the consumers is the recourse at their option to foreign vendors.

In respect of working trades, as those of carpenters, tailors and the

like now free, their being wholly prohibited to strangers would render all foreign residents in Turkey dependent for various wants on native artisans capable only for the most part of furnishing inferior articles or workmanship, besides the prejudice arising to those deprived of their employment.

Notwithstanding the engagement for the abolition of all monopolies, one has been retained by the Government for the manufacture and sale of snuff, from tobacco of the country, which is farmed out to parties vested with the exclusive privilege.

Quantities of it ceded by them, have come into the hands of British subjects here, the resale of which after encountering occasional objections, has always been allowed to proceed.

The Russian Treaty cited, concedes to the Sublime Porte the additional monopoly of foreign snuff as regards its retail, and places under special restrictions the trade in various other articles left hitherto perfectly free in this quarter.

With the reservations mentioned, this freedom extends to all exports and imports, in accordance with the tenor of the British Convention of 1838, without exception or reference to circumstances. And the principle has proved to be the best, if not alone calculated to ensure a permanent and regular system of duties and full exchange of commodities between the two countries.

The Treaty was framed to correct the previous abuses and irregularities in this respect and prevent their renewal.

Its virtue is liable to be entirely impaired by the retention on the part of the Sublime Porte, of the power of prohibiting at discretion the exportation of any Turkish product, as exemplified by experience; and a reapproach to the exploded system of prohibitions, monopolies, and partial protections, would assuredly prove injurious to the real interests of this part of the country in common with those of our trade.

Untoward seasons and onerous duties now in the course of repeal, arrested its growing progress here, so as not to exhibit fully that increase of production which has been the general result of the more perfect commercial freedom established by our last Treaty, and the best evidence of its advantages.

Its provisions, from their concise and liberal tenor, are of easy application, whilst possibly in some points susceptible of alteration or improvement; and a considerable increase of the duties payable was stipulated jointly with any extension of the immunities of British subjects and trade in Turkey, whilst the regulations were common to Ottoman subjects.

Brussa, August 31, 1846.

(Signed) D. SANDISON,
Consul.

No. 8.

Mr. Consul-General Colquhoun to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord, *Bucarest, July* 9, 1846.

IN obedience to the orders of his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch I addressed a few days ago to his Excellency in reply to a circular letter under date of 8th June, requiring me to furnish him with a statement as to the several points on which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT G. COLQUHOUN.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Mr. Consul-General Colquhoun to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir, *Bucarest, July* 3, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's circular of the 8th June respecting the working of the Tariff of 1839, and requiring me to state wherein it may need amendment as regards the Principality of Wallachia.

On this subject I have very little to remark; a reference to my preceding despatches of 1839, 1840, and subsequently, will show that the Principalities never availed themselves of the increased duties offered by the Treaty, as in fact the object for which the Treaty was made, viz., to do away with monopolies, did not exist here; they maintained their old 3 per cent. duties on the *ad valorem* price of all articles, whether imported or exported; in the latter case the rate was fixed for the current five years on the mean price of the preceding five years, the customs being farmed for that period of time. The said rate in most cases rather exceeded in amount 3 per cent., though there are some few instances in which it was less than 3 per cent.

There is one question to which I have drawn attention wherein the Wallachian Government refuses positively to conform to the Treaty—that of the right of warehousing at Ibraila the produce of Turkey. (Vide No. 18 of 24th September 1839, and No. 10 of 17th April 1843, &c.) This question, so important to the merchant residing at Galatz or Ibraila, but purchasing produce in Bulgaria, has remained unmooted, perhaps from the real position of the provinces as regards their sovereign court, but this of course involves a question of difficult solution.

The only other question likely to cause embarrassment, but which I believe has not yet occurred, is that of the refusal of the Wallachian Government to allow articles of foreign produce to enter the province without paying the 3 per cent., although they may have already paid the 5 per cent. in another port of Turkey. This and the right of preventing the exportation of grain in cases of scarcity, as recently mentioned by me, the Government claims in virtue of its Réglement Organique. These are the only points on which I have anything to remark in reply to your Excellency's letter, and which I beg to submit to your consideration.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT G. COLQUHOUN.

No. 9.

Mr. Consul Gardner to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 5.)

(Consular. No. 14.)

My Lord, *Jassy, July* 20, 1846.

A DESPATCH has been addressed in circular by his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning to the Levant Consulates, requiring information on the operation of the Commercial Treaty of 1839, and directing me to transmit my reply to your Lordship.

I have the honour to state that the Treaty in question has never been applied to this Principality, which has a separate administration sanctioned by the Turkish Government. The former Tariff of Turkey has been long followed for the import and export commerce, all merchandize paying 3 per cent. *ad valorem*, on being disembarked at Galatz, or on entering the country by the frontier-customs from Austria or Russia, with 2 per cent. additional for home consumption, and a general rate of duty of 3 per cent. is paid on the produce of the country exported, with the two important exceptions for corn and cattle, which pay a fixed duty. According to Mr. Vice-Consul Cunningham's calculations, the fixed duty on corn amounts to 5 per cent., with the exception of rye, which pays 12

per cent., taking the medium prices as the basis. Cattle pay one-half ducat on exportation, which is 5 to 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, according to general purchase price in the country, or to their improved condition and value on crossing the Austrian frontiers for the Pest and Vienna markets. The Austrian Government has even separate Treaties with Turkey for pasturage of cattle in Moldavia.

The present duties paid at the custom-houses on the frontiers and at Galatz, are on imports the same as those established by the Convention of 1839. The fixed duty on corn is as follows, when exported at Galatz:

		Sterling.
Wheat . .	4 piastres per kilo .	13⅓*d.* per imperial quarter
Rye . . .	,, ,,	,, ,,
Indian Corn	2¾ ,, ,,	9*d.* ,,
Barley . .	2 ,, ,,	6⅔*d.* ,,
Oats . . .	2 ,, ,,	6⅔*d.* ,,

The Moldavian Government has therefore not been recommended to adopt the present Tariff of the Ottoman Empire, but continues the former one, and the merchants of Galatz are perfectly satisfied in not being compelled to pay the higher duty of 12 per cent. on exportation. But owing to the restricted revenues of the country, a very limited improvement in the public roads and facilities of conveyance has been effected, and one-half of the products of the country is, from the expense of carriage, confined almost to the place of growth.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SAML. GARDNER.

No. 10.

Mr. Vice-Consul Cunningham to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 27.)

Galatz, July 4, 1846.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, copy of a letter I have this day addressed to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, regarding the Tariff of 1839.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES CUNNINGHAM,
Vice-Consul.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Mr. Vice-Consul Cunningham to Sir Stratford Canning.

Galatz, July 4, 1846.

Sir,

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Excellency's letter of 8th ultimo marked circular, I have the honour to inclose a report I have prepared regarding the Tariff of 1839 and present commercial regulations with Turkey. Before drawing up the report I consulted several merchants both here and in Ibraila, but found they had no change to suggest; and that is the amount of the report I now send.

I have as usual, and as far as was in my power, reported on all this neighbourhood, because I consider that to report for a particular district would have given no correct idea on the subject.

I send forward to the Foreign Office by this opportunity to your Excellency copy of what I have now communicated.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES CUNNINGHAM,
Vice-Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

Report on the Tariff of 1839, *as regards the British Trade of Moldavia, Wallachia, and Bulgaria on the Danube.*

MOLDAVIA.

THIS province not having availed itself of the new Treaty of 1839 which enabled the Government to raise the duties to 12 per cent. on articles of exportation, and 5 per cent. on articles of importation: that is, on exportations 9 per cent of internal duty when articles were purchased, and 3 per cent. when they were exported from the province, and on articles of importation 3 per cent. at the time of importation and 2 per cent. more on their being sold for consumption; but having kept to the rate of duties levied before the date of the new Treaty, which in general is 3 per cent. *ad valorem* on all articles imported and exported, there is no change on the Tariff called for.

The exceptions to the rate of 3 per cent. are on articles of

Exportation.

	Money of Visteria. Piastres.	Currency of Galatz. Piastres.	Rate per cent. on Medium Price.
Wheat, per kilo . . .	4	5 25 . .	5 per cent
Rye, ditto	4	5 25 . .	12 ,,
Barley, ditto	2	2 32 . .	5 ,,
Indian Corn, ditto . .	2 40 . . .	3 33 . .	5 ,,
Cattle	15¾	22½ . . .	10 ,,

Importations.

Salt (prohibited).
Tobacco, per oke . . 2 piastres . . 20 per cent.

The Moldavian Government however on one point refuses to give force to the Treaty of Commerce of 1839, namely Articles IV. as the importation of wheat and all kinds of grain and tallow, the produce of Turkey, cannot be introduced into Moldavia for the purpose of exportation.

It may also be remarked on the Article IV of the Treaty, that it does not go far enough, as it should be clearly expressed that "all goods purchased in Turkey for exportation, and which have paid full duties 9 per cent. and 3 per cent. may be carried from one shipping port to another or more, and be shipped from thence without any further duty ever being demanded."

In Moldavia Government pretends to have the right under the "Réglement Organique," to prohibit the exportation of all kinds of provisions, so often as they may fear a scarcity.

Galatz is a free port in some respects, that is in so far that all articles not expressly prohibited may be imported and re-exported without paying any duty whatever.

WALLACHIA.

The Government of Wallachia did not change the rate of duties in consequence of the new Treaty of 1839, but kept to the former rate of 3 per cent. on importations and exportations.

The fixed rates on the exportation of grain from Wallachia, are,—

	Piastres.	On Medium Price.
Wheat, per kilo. . . .	3 15 . . .	3 per cent.
Rye, ditto	3 15 . . .	6 ,,
Indian Corn, ditto . . .	1 27 . . .	2½ ,,
Barley, ditto	1 5 . . .	3 ,,
Millet, ditto	2 25 . . .	3 ,,

The articles of which the importations into Wallachia are altogether prohibited, are wheat, Indian corn, tallow and salt.

The Wallachian Government claim the right of prohibiting all kinds of provisions, so often as they fear a scarcity; and acting on this claim of right, it in January last laid on an additional duty on all kinds of grain, of 2½ piastres per kilo; this has caused a serious loss to foreign merchants who held grain. The right to prohibit the exportation of an article in an extreme case cannot be construed into that of laying an arbitrary tax to the prejudice of foreign merchants. A merchant does not care so much for the amount of a tax as for the certainty that he will not be called on to pay more than what is fixed.

Ibraila is a free port to the same extent as Galatz.

It must be further remarked that when British produce is imported from Turkey either into Moldavia or Wallachia, even when it may have paid full duties of 5 per cent. in Turkey, and come accompanied with proper teskérés, still the duty of 3 per cent. must be again paid in the province.

BULGARIA.

The chief articles of exportation from Bulgaria on the Danube being grain, it is necessary to observe here that the Tariff of 1839 is rather high.

	Aspers.
Wheat, from Turkey . . .	150 48
Barley, ditto	67 23
Indian corn, ditto	75 25

Wheat is therefore valued at piastres 13 35 per kilo, but the customers in Bulgaria only demand piastres 1 12 of duty, thus valuing the wheat at piastres 10 35; thus although the valuation is just as concerns Constantinople, it is high as regards Bulgaria.

The trade of Bulgaria on the Danube seems to go on satisfactorily, but is kept back from the want of a general place of depôt and shipping port, but this in time will find a remedy.

In conclusion, there does not appear to be any change required either in the Tariff or Treaty for the trade of the Danube.

(Signed) CHARLES CUNNINGHAM,
Vice-Consul.

Galatz, July 4, 1846.

No. 11.

Mr. Consul Saunders to Mr. Bidwell.—(Received September 11.)

(Consular. No. 13.)

British Consulate in Albania,
Yanina, August 19, 1846.

Sir,

IN accordance with instructions from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, I have the honour to transmit, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a report upon the subject of the contemplated revision of the Tariff of 1839, together with some further observations respecting the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade with Turkey.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) SIDNEY SMITH SAUNDERS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Mr. Consul Saunders to Sir Stratford Canning.

British Consulate in Albania,
Yanina, August 17, 1846.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch marked circular of the 8th of June, requiring me to furnish statements in detail respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency in the first place as regards articles of import, that the principal objections which have hitherto been found to exist in the application of the Tariff valuations, have been compromised in this province by the custom-house consenting of late years, in lieu of the prices set forth in the Tariff, to take the invoice value of the goods as the basis of their computation of import duties, which the reduction of of prices rendered a desirable alleviation to the importer.

It may be scarcely necessary therefore that I should extend my remarks further upon this portion of the Tariff, respecting which your Excellency may derive more practical observations from other quarters.

With regard to the export duties on the produce of this country, I have the honour to annex a list of those articles which from their high rate of valuation in the Tariff of 1839 may require some diminution in the established duties, or at all events may be advantageously left to pay a duty of 12 per cent. upon the market price.

Upon this point I further beg to annex extract of a report on the working of the Commercial Convention of 1838 which I forwarded in 1842 to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, stating the complaints which had been made to his Excellency the Lord High Commissioner in the Ionian Islands, of the high rate of the export duty levied in this province on wool, and the arrangement subsequently effected for a partial reduction thereof, as well as for a diminished rate of export duty on valonea, whereon the Tariff rates also proved inordinately high.

These reductions, however, made by special agreement with the farmers of the customs' duties for two or three years, were scarcely maintainable last year, and are not to be expected during the present one; so that unless it be deemed convenient for the future to allow these articles to pay an *ad valorem* duty, it would be highly desirable that some distinction should be made between the respective qualities of each, instead of one and the same rate of duty being levied on wool, "fine and course," and valonea "all sorts;" or finally, if such distinction be considered likely to prove a fertile source of contention, some reduction of the present Tariff rates on these articles may be fairly contended for. The first of these arrangements however may be considered the most beneficial, and was made applicable to both these articles in the Russian Tariff of 1812.

In conformity with your Excellency's desire that I should furnish at the present time any further observations which I may have to offer respecting the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade with Turkey, I avail myself of this opportunity to offer some remarks upon a communication* which has been made public, whereby it would seem that the Turkish Government, under the pretext of a revision of the Commercial Tariffs, at the same time wishes to infringe upon the provisions of the Convention itself, by calling anew into existence some of those monopolies which it was one of the principal objects of that Convention to abolish.

The stipulations upon this head are so precise that no possibility of mistake can arise as to their unlimited application to "all articles without any exception whatsoever, the produce, growth, or manufacture of the said (Ottoman) dominions;" which articles it is provided "the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty, or their agents, shall be permitted to purchase at all places in the Ottoman dominions, whether for the purpose of internal trade or exportation."

* Note from the Porte to the several Legations, dated May 11, 1846.

In virtue of these stipulations, and of the further explanations afforded by the official note of Nouri Effendi annexed to the Convention, showing the extreme caution which had been used in order that no misconception should arise as to the right of our merchants to purchase within the Ottoman Empire all kinds of merchandize, and also to resell or to export the merchandize so purchased, nothing remains to be desired in this province as regards complete freedom of action in all matters of trade to which British subjects may choose to direct their attention.

On the other hand, in conformity with the engagement of the Sublime Porte "to abolish all monopolies of agricultural produce, or of any other article whatsoever;" and according to the stipulations contained in the first Additional Article of the Convention, providing for the unrestricted liberty to import into all parts of the Ottoman dominions without exception," as well as to sell and resell "in the interior, all merchandize of whatsoever description, embarked in British vessels, and being the property of British subjects," it became equally evident that the obnoxious monopoly of salt (to which attention is likely to be called as one of the principal objects which the Turkish Government may now have in view) could not be maintained by the Ottoman authorities; and although considerable opposition upon this point was experienced in the first instance, the salt trade has for some years been perfectly free and unrestricted in this province, where it may be considered of peculiar importance from the large quantities introduced from the Ionian Islands, the export of salt forming one of the principal articles of revenue at Santa Maura.

The produce of the Turkish salt-works during the existence of the monopoly being insufficient to supply the demand, large quantities of salt were continually procured from Santa Maura on account of the holders of the monopoly, the cost per horse-load including freight being about 13 piastres, and the selling price being seldom or never less than 30 piastres.

Since the abolition of the monopoly the amount of salt imported has considerably increased, the population being at the same time supplied with a better article at one half the price, and the profits being also thrown into the hands of our own traders.

The Turkish salt has of course experienced a corresponding diminution of price; while a further impetus has been lately given to the import trade in this article, from the circumstance of the Ionian Government, overstocked with the quantity at its disposal, having proclaimed a considerable reduction in the selling price.

On the other hand, new salt-works have been opened in this province within the last three or four years, whereby a large additional supply has been amassed; so that if any alteration in the existing stipulations were to take effect as applicable to this Article, the Ionian Government would experience a considerable loss by the total annihilation of this branch of export trade to Albania, which at the same time affords employment to a large portion of its commercial marine.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SIDNEY SMITH SAUNDERS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Statement showing the Principal Articles upon which the Tariff valuations of 1839, *as regards the produce of Albania, prove disadvantageous to Exporters.*

		Market Prices.	Duty of 12 per cent.	Tariff Price.	Tariff Duty.	Remarks.
		Piastres.	Ps.	Ps.	Ps.	
Wool	per quintal	115 to 120	13 32 to 14 16	205 0	24 24	In the Russian Tariff of 1843 the export duty on these three articles is advantageously left to be regulated by the market prices.
*Valonea	per do.	35 to 50	4 8 to 6 0	56 26	6 0	
Silk	per oke	100 to 120	13 8	200 0	24 0	
Olive oil	per quintal	117 to 156	16 20	170 0	20 16	135 to 140 a fair valuation.
Linseed	per kilo	15	1 32	18 0	2 6½	Unimportant.
Skins, Lamb and Kid, each		1 to 1½	6	2 20	12	Should stand upon the same footing as wool.

* The duty in this province on Valonea, which, though of inferior quality, is frequently shipped for the English market, is computed per 1000 Venetian pounds (equal to about 8½ quintals), and according to the existing Tariff rates, this quantity pays a duty of Ps. 68, instead of paying only from Ps. 35 to 51, according to the market price, computing at the rate of 12 per cent.

(Signed) SIDNEY SMITH SAUNDERS.

No. 12.

Mr. Consul Saunders to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 28.)

(Consular. No. 14.)
My Lord,

British Consulate in Albania,
Yanina, August 31, 1846.

WITH reference to my last despatch of the 19th instant upon the subject of the Tariff and existing commercial regulations between Great Britain and Turkey, I have the honour to transmit for your Lordship's information the copy of a further report which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople, containing certain additional observations upon this subject suggested by the perusal of the Treaty of Commerce lately concluded with the Porte by the Russian Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SIDNEY SMITH SAUNDERS.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Mr. Consul Saunders to the Hon. H. Wellesley.

Sir,

British Consulate in Albania,
Yanina, August 31, 1846.

WITH reference to my last despatch dated the 17th instant, upon the subject of the Tariff valuations and existing commercial regulations affecting British trade with Turkey, I beg leave to offer some additional observations suggested by the perusal of the new Russian Treaty of Commerce with Turkey, which has since come under my notice.

In this Treaty two principal features stand prominently forward, apart from the others which mainly resemble those of the British Convention, namely the remarkable prohibition restricting Russian subjects from carrying on retail dealings, and the renewal of a series of mono-

polies, including that of salt upon which in my previous communication I had already offered by anticipation certain remarks.

With regard to the retail trade no such restriction has I believe ever before been applied to foreigners in Turkey, any more than a like impediment affects Ottoman subjects in other countries; and it would seem somewhat remarkable, that among the few points upon which a perfect reciprocity can be said to exist, this should be set aside by a special and hitherto unheard-of concession in favour of the latter.

There can be no doubt that this point ceded by one Power will give rise to similar pretensions in any new arrangements to be made with others; and although I do not observe that the provision which contemplates the revision of the Tariffs after each septennial period (if required) can in any way be held to affect the arrangements of the Convention itself; yet under the possibility of any misapprehension on my part, the more expressly as my attention has been expressly invited, not merely to the Tariff of 1839 but also to the existing commercial regulations themselves, it may perhaps not be deemed irrelevant to consider how far the application to British traders of stipulations similar to those contained in the Russian Treaty may be likely to affect their future position in the Levant.

In the first place the constitution of those bodies corporate termed "Esnafs," whose arbitrary rules laid down amongst themselves are held binding upon all the members of a particular class of traders in the different towns, would enable those associations to place restrictions upon the importer in the sale of his goods highly prejudicial to his interests; and it cannot be doubted that the jealousy which prevails on the part of the native merchants would lead them in the greater number of cases to frame regulations expressly intended to circumvent the foreigner and harass his operations, with the view of driving him altogether out of the market. The unrestricted liberty of the retail trade is the only guarantee against such combinations.

But, it may be asked, how could the Russian Government, which is usually so ready to take advantage of circumstances, and has always shown itself so pertinacious (I had almost said overreaching) in its arrangements with the Porte, consent to any stipulation which should prove thus deeply prejudicial to its innumerable subjects and *protégés* in all parts of Turkey?

The answer to this question may perhaps be found in the First Article of the selfsame Treaty, which, in imitation of the corresponding one in our own, expressly secures to Russian subjects and ships the privileges of the most favoured nation. If, therefore, no such prohibition be made binding upon the subjects of other foreign Powers, it may be unhesitatingly asserted that, while the credit of the concession remains unimpaired, its application to Russian subjects alone will not be enforced and the Sixth Article of the Treaty will remain a dead letter. If, on the contrary, the position of other foreigners be assimilated to that in which Russians are required to stand, it can hardly be doubted in what quarter those restrictions would be most ruinously felt, for it is the import trade which is alone interested in the question. Moreover, from natural associations, the Russian importer would be less likely to see special combinations studiously directed against him.

What, however, under such circumstances, must become of all the numerous Ionians and Maltese actually engaged in the retail trade, and who, while relying upon the same for their sole means of subsistence, offer at the same time no indifferent facility for the dispersion of British imports in various parts of the interior? Nothing would remain for them but to return to their respective homes without hope or remedy, after breaking up their establishments, involving of course a considerable sacrifice; while many of their dependents and co-nationals, thus thrown out of employ, must be expected to join the ranks of that already too-numerous class of loiterers whose abandoned character and reprehensible conduct have so often been the subject of serious animadversion.

With regard to the other matter of monopolies treated of in the Eleventh Article of the Russian Treaty I have already fully explained the disadvantages which the Ionian Government would experience were any new

restrictions to be imposed on the trade in salt, which in this province at least is now unfettered by any kind of restraint: and I have only to state, in addition to the explanations already afforded upon this head, that I have since communicated upon the subject with Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner in the Ionian Islands, and that his Excellency expresses, in reply, his anxiety respecting the result, "as the salt trade is of great importance to the Ionian States."

The renewal of the other monopolies enumerated in the Treaty, though perhaps of minor importance in themselves, would have a tendency to increase the difficulty of dealing with the provincial authorities, forasmuch as, in many instances, they had only been brought to abandon former abuses of the kind after a protracted struggle.

But taking *seriatim* the several heads under which those special exceptions are classed in the Eleventh Article of the Treaty aforesaid, I would beg to offer a few words of comment upon each.

With respect to the first, which treats of the Public Fisheries, no possible pretension to interfere therewith could ever have been experienced so as to render necessary any stipulation of the kind; and the mere sale of fish as a matter of internal commerce is of course governed by the local restrictions affecting that or any other produce of the country, whatever those restrictions may happen to be.

The fishing for Leeches, which is next adverted to, is also a privilege that has always remained in the hands of the Government, and as such is farmed out from year to year in the several districts; so that it cannot be argued that the stipulations of the British Convention are in any way found to affect the same. The purchase of leeches for exportation is quite another matter, which is not called in question even in the Russian Treaty.

The third head contemplates a monopoly less objectionable perhaps in its application as the burden must fall upon the native consumer, but the more obnoxious in principle from Alum being in most parts of Turkey an article of import and not of export. It is expressly comprised as such in the British Import Tariff annexed to the Convention of 1838, and nowhere appears in the list of exports. The special provision therefore made for the liberty to purchase this article for exportation, which (as in the foregoing case of leeches) might have been left to be inferred as a matter of course, would appear to have been devised by the Ottoman negotiator as a blind to cover the unwarrantable interference with the imported article.

The fourth exception is that of Salt, which coincides in many respects with the case of alum, the object being not so much to protect an article of native produce as to place in the hands of particular individuals the exclusive right of import for the purpose of securing the most exorbitant profits thereby; and it is incorrectly set forth that the importation of foreign salt is subject to general prohibition in the Ottoman States, for not only were the monopolists of old always accustomed to import Ionian salt for their own exclusive benefit and advantage, but the present practice in this province, confirmed by a precise order issued by the Porte, proves the contrary.

The fifth head relates to Snuff, which is extensively manufactured in this province. The traffic in this article for transport and sale in other parts of Turkey, whether wholesale or retail, is liable to those restrictions which affect the most favoured class of Turkish subjects, and which consist in the payment to the farmer of this appalto of a special impost, namely, three piastres per oke. The pretension, therefore, to form in this case a special exception to the rule, generally binding as regards all other produce of the country, is wholly uncalled for, and would be a gratuitous interference with the provisions contained in the Second Article of the British Convention.

The sixth head, providing in the case of Tobacco exported, for the payment of certain additional dues which the exporting merchant is himself made responsible for, unless proving that the producer has already paid the same, is a simple medium for increasing the export duty on that article to any extent.

The seventh and last head regards the retailers of Wines and Spirits, which, as staple articles of export in the Ionian States supplied for the consumption of the neighbouring parts, would be liable to the same objectionable combinations as those treated of in reference to the retail trade in general; and such a restriction in this instance would be the signal for the renewal of a special impost which was formerly applied to these importations from the Ionian Islands, when however the regular established duty was only 3 per cent.

Under all these circumstances I venture to submit in conclusion, that while the British Convention as it now stands would seem to be in every way unexceptionable, and while its application does appear to be restricted to any stated period, it may be hardly questionable whether the modification thereof, in conformity with the stipulations of the new Russian Treaty, could be productive of anything but disastrous consequences to those engaged in the trade with Turkey.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SIDNEY SMITH SAUNDERS.

No. 13.

Mr. Consul James Brant to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 25.)

(Consular. No. 19.)

Erzeroom, June 26, 1846.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch I addressed his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, in reply to his demand respecting the operation of the Convention of 1839, and which copy I have been instructed by his Excellency to forward to your Lordship.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JAS. BRANT.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Mr. Consul James Brant to Sir Stratford Canning.

Erzeroom, June 24, 1846.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's circular despatch of the 8th June, respecting the improvement which is desirable in the Tariff of 1839, and the bearing of existing commercial regulations upon British trade.

The duties on imports cannot be considered onerous; and if they were on all occasions fairly levied, and no more demanded than the fixed rates, I think no change need be required. But it is still a desideratum that fairness in carrying the Convention into effect be observed, which I believe it is not universally. Advantage is often taken to impose duties on natives, from which they ought to be exempt: but, from being demanded in a place distant from that in which the purchase was made, the natives have not anybody to appeal to, and are forced to submit.

On exports, the duties are certainly high. The exporters, taking the price and the duty combined, calculate whether the sum be sufficiently moderate to enable them to compete with the same productions of other countries; and if they be not, no purchase takes place; the articles are left on the hands of the producers, and accumulating there, the price eventually declines. The producers then are, in the first instance, sufferers by the high duties. But the exporters also are, in some degree, prejudiced; for the prices, preventing their making returns, check the import trade; and thus both Turkey and Great Britain suffer.

In considering this question, it is requisite to bear in mind what the present Tariff replaced;—one much lower, it is true, but at the same time

accompanied by a system of monopolies which thwarted all calculation, and rendered every transaction uncertain, besides in most cases occasioning higher duties than are now paid. I am unhesitatingly of opinion that the present state of things is much to be preferred to the old. The Turkish Government does not consider the Tariff advantageous to the revenue; and I am inclined to believe that a return to the old system would be acceptable to it. But the producers, I think, are better contented that the matter remain as at present; and it would be dangerous to insist on a change, unless a sufficient guarantee were given that monopolies should not be revived. The Porte depends for its revenue, in great part, on the duties on commerce; and it could not afford to risk a reduction in the amount they bring in,—for it would be nearly impossible to substitute any other tax. The direct taxes are already so numerous and so burdensome, and they give rise to so much injustice and vexation, that it would be the height of impolicy to add to their number or to increase their amount. Whether the reduction of duties on exports, by production and exportation, would augment the revenue, is doubtful; for there are so many causes in existence which would counteract the beneficial effect of such reduction. Still, I cannot but think that if an uniform duty of 5 per cent. were adopted in all cases, to be levied on the exporters and importers at the ports of embarkation and landing, abolishing every kind and denomination of inland duty, it would tend very much to the encouragement of commerce and to the convenience and relief of all classes of traders and producers. Were this system adopted, and were custom-houses placed only on the coast and on the frontier, the collection of the revenue would be simplified, peculation would be prevented with greater facility, and the expense of collection would be diminished; and these advantages could not but have a tendency to increase the revenue. But, to carry this out, all European nations must agree to accept the same Treaty and Tariff; for without this unanimity, it were vain to attempt any such plan.

The venality of Turkish employés is notorious, and all the regulations introduced and orders given to arrest this evil, have produced no sensible effect; and as it is of course more difficult to check it, the greater the number of employés, to diminish them is to facilitate the end desired.

It is as notoriously true as to be lamented, that from the want of enlarged views in Turkish statesmen, and from the venality and bad faith of employés generally, no great trust can be placed in liberal stipulations being observed, unless Treaties are very precise and stringent. It were most desirable that such precise stipulations were made in our Treaties with regard to internal trade: for if this be not provided for, a way will be found of eluding the benefits conceded to Europeans, by taxing internal trade. Numerous instances of this unfair dealing can no doubt be cited in various parts of Turkey. As this is not a country producing exportable commodities, I have none to quote; but I may mention one striking example, namely, the silk of Amassia, which is charged with a very heavy duty before it is brought to market, and afterwards with the 12 per cent. of the Tariff. I may cite also the duty of Intissab, which is still levied in many places, although it was considered as abolished by the Convention of 1839.

I have in the preceding part of this despatch, shown that the high duties on the productions of Turkey limit the import trade; and this action is what is most prejudicial to Great Britain. It is of great importance to her to find free markets for her manufactures, and to encourage by every means the expansion of those markets. Such a one exists in Turkey, and its extension would follow the increased demand for Turkish produce, likely to arise from lower duties, and with the more certainty, if the agriculturists were encouraged to augment production, by freedom from the vexatious and illegal demands on them to which they are subject. This security is only to be hoped for by the Porte keeping a more effectual check over provincial governors; and if their own employés are so universally steeped in venality as to play into each other's hands, then a substitute may be found through the agency of European Consuls,

which would be efficient, if the Porte itself were disposed to act on authentic information, sought and communicated through the channel of foreign Embassies. This sort of interference may be considered objectionable; and it cannot be denied that it has inconveniences. But in the state of information in Turkey, without extraneous influence, the Government would scarce know how to adopt a right course, or, if adopted, would seldom continue it.

Whatever new commercial regulations be made, they should be general, as well for all European nations as for every class of natives. By that means alone, could they be expected to be either effective or permanent. Partial modifications would do no material good, either to the European or Turkish Governments; but one general and liberal system would be most assuredly beneficial to both parties.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JAS. BRANT.

No. 14.

Mr. Vice-Consul Stevens to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, June 21, 1846.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herein inclosed, for your Lordship's information, copy of my reply to a circular addressed to the Vice-Consulate by his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, respecting the proposed amendment of the Commercial Tariff of 1839.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FRAS. J. STEVENS,
Vice-Consul.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Mr. Vice-Consul Stevens to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir, *Trebizond, June 21, 1846.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's circular dated the 8th instant, desiring me to furnish your Excellency with statements respecting several points in which the Tariff of duties established in 1839 may require amendment, with any suggestions which British merchants residing here have to offer, connected with its improvement, and, moreover, any remarks I may consider it necessary to make respecting the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon our trade in this country.

I laid your Excellency's circular before the British merchants. The only point which they, as well as myself, deem deserving of amendment, is the duty now levied on British cotton manufactures, in virtue of the present Tariff.

When the Tariff was established, the 3 and 2 per cent. duties on British cotton manufactures were calculated on their estimated value. Since that period, British cotton goods have fallen in value at least 30 per cent., so that if the present value of our cotton goods be taken, and the above-mentioned rates of duty be calculated thereon, it will result that the amount now paid equals 8 per cent.

Trebizond being almost destitute of an export trade, neither the British merchants nor I have any suggestions to offer respecting it.

Great inconvenience is experienced by our merchants, in consequence of a refusal on the part of the customs at Constantinople, to allow the duty on merchandise imported by them for sale to be paid at the custom-house here. That refusal obliges traders to employ agents at the capital for settling the duty, previous to the goods coming hither. That

agent charges a per centage on the transaction; he is frequently obliged by the Constantinople custom-house to open his constituents' goods, which get ill-treated, and I have even heard complaints made by the merchants, that articles have been extracted from the packages by the custom-house employés, whilst the goods are being inspected. This detriment and vexation would be spared to the trader, were he allowed to settle the duty here.

The British merchants of Trebizond have no further suggestions to offer respecting the amendment of the Tariff of 1839, with the working of which they express themselves satisfied.

In accordance with your Excellency's request I have addressed a copy of this communication to the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FRAS. J. STEVENS,
Vice-Consul.

No. 15.

Mr. Consul Suter to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Kaïssariah, June 26, 1846.*

IN compliance with instructions from Sir Stratford Canning, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, copies of a despatch and of its inclosure, addressed to his Excellency, regarding amendments of the Tariff of 1839.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HY. SUTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Mr. Consul Suter to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir, *Kaïssariah, June 26, 1846.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch circular of the 8th instant, directing my furnishing statements in detail respecting the points in which the Tariff of 1839, may require amendment, with such suggestions for improvement as I may be able to obtain from British merchants in this district, and desiring me to add any further observations I may have to offer respecting the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade with Turkey.

With reference to the first part of your Excellency's instructions, I beg to state, that no British merchants are resident at this place, and that the custom-house which existed here was removed in 1842; since which period no custom duties whatever have been exacted at Kaissariah. All imported goods arrive here with teskérés (certificates) of the duties having been levied at the ports of landing, and those exported pay them at the places to which they are sent hence for sale or embarkation. The value of most imports and exports in Turkey, within the last few years has sensibly depreciated; and there can be no doubt, I believe, that with few exceptions, goods now pay considerably more on their real value than the 3 and 2 per cent. and the 9 and 3 per cent. rates contemplated by the Commercial Convention of 1838. It would seem certain also, that many of the duties were fixed in the Tariff, without adequate knowledge or due consideration of the selling rates in some parts of Turkey, of different qualities of the articles therein specified. I cannot speak positively as respect imports, regarding which accurate information and detailed particulars can only be well furnished from the ports where they are landed and pay the duties. With regard to exports, frequent occasion has occurred for me to observe, that merchants complain seriously of the present duties on

many products so much exceeding the basis of 12 per cent., upon which the Tariff rates were meant to be founded; and I beg to re-submit herewith a copy of the despatch and of its inclosure which I addressed to your Excellency, the 1st of July last, on that subject. In addition to the remarks therein offered, the following is a note I have obtained here, the accuracy of which I can vouch from my own knowledge, of prices of articles exported from this district, to which are subjoined the duties payable thereon according to the present Tariff, and the per centage these respectively amount to upon the given prices.

Articles.	Average Prices of 1842 to 1846.	Rates of Duty by Tariff of 1839.	Per centage on the prices to which the duties amount.
Aniseed	Piastres, 2 per oke.	21 aspers per oke.	about 9 per cent.
Gum Tragacanth (in sorts) ..	,, 7½ ,,	144 ,,	16 ,,
Goat's Wool	,, 9½ ,,	173 ,,	15 ,,
Hair Sacking	,, 6½ ,,	136 ,,	17½ ,,
Linseed	Paras, 22 ,,	259 ,, 20 okes.	12½ ,,
Sheep's Wool	Piastres, 2½ ,,	2,952 ,, quintal.	22 ,,
Yellow Berries	,, 14½ ,,	403 ,, oke.	23 ,,
Tallow	,, 3½ ,,	2,692 ,, quintal.	13½ ,,

This list is confined to the staple articles of Kaissariah, as the particulars regarding the others, produced in the neighbourhood and trafficked in from this quarter, are comprised in that appended to my despatch of 1st July last above referred to. The prices I have stated are taken on an average of the current rates during the three years preceding 1845. In the latter, the crops of most products failed, and every article here ruled at extravagant prices, far beyond a fair value in seasons of ordinary production.

Yellow berries form the chief product and most important article of trade at Kaissariah. The quantity annually grown in its districts and the immediate neighbourhood, may be estimated (on the result of three fair crops between 1841 and 1845,) at about 370,000 okes, or 9,250 cwt. Of this, by far the greatest portion is sent to Smyrna, and proceeds thence to the English market. The present duties amount to about 23 per cent. upon the ordinary average value of this article, being calculated in the Tariff on the price of 28 piastres per oke. Such a price has not been paid at Kaissariah for many years. It was so in the two seasons before 1840, but only in consequence of mad speculation, which temporarily raised the article to nominal excessive rates, unwarranted by its value in the markets of consumption. At Smyrna and Constantinople, supposing the Tariff duties to have been determined on selling prices at either, they rarely ever reached so high a limit as 28 piastres per oke, and were a value taken even at the place of sale in Turkey, rather than at that of growth, from 18 to 20 piastres per oke would I think be found the utmost at which this article of the produce of Kaissariah could be fully estimated. A distinction of the duties on yellow berries is made in the Tariff, between those respectively of Anatolia and Roumelia; yet in several provinces of the former, the qualities raised are not of the value of the finer sorts of Kaissariah, Angora, &c., upon which the higher duties are calculated. I am not able, however, to state with accuracy, the prices of any, but some of those grown in districts of the Pashalic of Konia. These during 1843 and 1844, were sold at 4 to 5 piastres per oke, which is not more than what the inferior descriptions are worth which go from Roumelia. It seems evident, and I do not hesitate to repeat the opinion I before expressed, that a reduction to a more equitable scale, of the duties on articles I have pointed out, and on all others that can be shown as overrated, is necessary for the encouragement of our trade with this part of Turkey.

The Tariff specifies some imports and exports upon which, as well as all others not therein enumerated, the duties are to be levied *ad valorem*, at the per centage rates stipulated by the Commercial Convention. Under the system adopted by the Porte of farming its customs, these duties are complained of as leading to much dispute and delay in mercantile transactions; for the customers of course always endeavour to exact them upon as high a price as possible. This frequently is attempted at exorbitant valuations; and I have always heard it argued as desirable, that the inconvenience be obviated by an option being secured to the merchant, of giving *ad valorem* duties in kind in cases where an equitable arrangement regarding them cannot be at once effected with the customer.

With reference to the second part of your Excellency's instructions, I can only say that all the information I am able to obtain, and the result of my own observation, induce me to believe that the bearing of the existing commercial regulations is favourable to British trade with Turkey, and that they would prove still more so with the amendments I have ventured above to bring to your Excellency's notice, and were some of the stipulations of the Commercial Convention which have been disregarded by Turkish authorities required to be fully adhered to.

I have from time to time been under the necessity of representing to your Excellency the revival of some monopolies and various irregular exactions in this direction. The orders your Excellency was pleased to procure from the Grand Vizier, removed last year, so far as it applied to British merchants, the prohibition to free trade in salt, wines, spirits, gunpowder, lead, leadshot, alum and snuff, which had been re-established at Tarsous; but I am recently informed by Mr. Vice-Consul Clapperton, that the authorities there have intimated their intention of renewing those restrictions, without any exception in favour of foreign traders. The toll called "Batch," of 5 to 5½ piastres per load, levied on merchandise passing to and fro through the Koulek Boghaz defile of the Taurus, and that under the denomination of "Yioklamà," of 3 piastres per load, exacted on imports at Kaissariah, are in consequence of the orders obtained by your Excellency from the Porte, discontinued to be demanded from British merchants. They are still taken however from the native traders, notwithstanding their merchandise be accompanied by certificates proving the payment of all regular duties, and consequently British and other European products and manufactures thus continue indirectly subjected to these undue charges. The levy of "Yioklamà," "Batch," "Derbend dues," and tolls under other names, is practised in many parts of Anatolia. The charge is ostensibly made "to defray the expense of guards and other arrangements to insure the secure passage of caravans through particular districts where danger from robbers may be apprehended." In no instance however that I am aware of, is the produce of these tolls applied to such a purpose, nor does the risk against which they purport to provide, exist in places where many of them are taken. The right of levying them which is sold at Constantinople, or in the provinces to the highest bidder, frequently for an insignificant amount, which as an item of revenue can be no important object to the Turkish Government, served only as a source of gain to the private purchaser, whose vexatious measures to render his privilege as profitable as possible, create infinite inconvenience and prejudice to trade.

It was in consideration of the abolition by the Porte, of all previously existing monopolies and other restrictions and indirect exactions, that the high duties established in the Convention of 1838 were conceded. Though professedly not intended to apply to foreign trade, all such restrictions and exactions eventually fall upon, or indirectly affect European commercial interests; and I humbly submit, that arrangements with the Porte, by which their definite removal might be secured, would prove highly advantageous to British trade with Turkey.

In compliance with the concluding paragraph of your Excellency's instructions, I transmit herewith a packet for the Foreign Department, containing copies of the present despatch and its inclosure.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HY. SUTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Mr. Consul Suter to Sir Stratford Canning.

Kaïssariah, July 1, 1845.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract of a despatch and a copy of its inclosure, which I have been requested to forward for your Excellency's consideration, regarding the duties on the principal exports from Tarsous.

The observations offered by Mr. Clapperton may in a great measure also apply to the exports of this country, and occasion has been offered me to remark that merchants trading from Anatolia complain of the heaviness with which the present duties bear upon many of its productions, owing to the tariff rates on them of the Convention of 1838 having been fixed without a due knowledge and estimate of their real value.

I cannot, therefore, but concur in the representation submitted by Mr. Clapperton, that a revision and reduction of those rates to a more equitable scale were desirable for the greater advantage and encouragement of our trade with Turkey.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HY. SUTER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 15.

Mr. Vice-Consul Clapperton to Mr. Consul Suter.

Tarsous, May 29, 1845.

(Extract.)

AS the Commercial Convention of 1838 between Great Britain and the Porte will expire on the 13th March next, and various products of this and the adjacent provinces are affected by grievous export duties, beyond the basis of the Convention of 12 per cent., I have requested a meeting of the principal merchants at Tarsous of all denominations, inviting them to give me a price-current of the various articles of export from the ports of Tarsous, based on their average value during the last four years, in order to enable my ascertaining and submitting to the Earl of Aberdeen and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, how much the commerce of this province in particular has been aggrieved by the Convention.

Under present circumstances this place is precluded the means of trading advantageously with England, and of receiving her manufactures by the high Tariff, and is unable to compete with other provinces of the empire, and with other countries, where on articles similar to those exported hence, though of double and treble the value, only the same amount of duties is exacted.

I beg reference to the accompanying prices current signed by the merchants, which is of course confined to the staple productions of these productions. To the prices of the article I have appended the duties payable on them according to the Tariff, and by the calculated per centage of these on the value of each, it will be seen how far some of them are taxed above the duty of 12 per cent. on exports upon which the Convention was founded.

It is worthy of notice that this province seems to be the only one in which the customers have not consented to make bonifications to the merchants from the high rates of the Tariff. In Aleppo, Beyrout, Cyprus, and other places, agreements have been entered into to that effect, the basis of which is as near as possible to the 12 per cent.

The principal exports hence are cotton, sheep's wool, wheat, barley, sesame seed, linseed, madder roots; besides which, wax, old copper, yellow berries, goats' wool, Indian corn, lentils, butter, planks, &c., are likewise exported, but only in inconsiderable quantities.

It would be highly advantageous, should Her Majesty's Government intend making any change in the Tariff on the expiration of the present term of the Convention, were the high duties on our principal articles of export revised.

I would beg your submitting the remarks and prices current I have offered to the Earl of Aberdeen and Her Majesty's Ambassador, and I venture to hope that a consideration of the question they relate to may procure some relief for the benefit and encouragement of our trade in this part of Turkey.

Inclosure 4 in No. 15.

Average Prices of Articles of Exportation from the Ports of Tarsous, during the Four Years ending December 31, 1844.

Articles.	Average Price in Turkish Piastres.	Duties according to the Tariff, in Aspers.	Calculated per centage of the Duties on the annexed price.
Butter	4 per oke	3,168 per kintal	15 per cent.
Bees' Wax	15 "	267 per oke	15 "
Cotton Wool	2½ "	3,405 per kintal	25⅝ "
Carrubes	40 per kintal	*ad valorem*	—
Currants	1 per oke	2,160 per kintal	40 per cent.
Grain and Pulse, viz.—			
Wheat	50 per Tarsous kilo	198 per Consple. kilo	26½ "
Barley	30 "	90 "	27 "
Indian Corn	30 "	*ad valorem.*	—
Honey	2 per oke	ditto	—
Hides, viz.—			
Buffalo	5 per oke	ditto	—
Ox and Cow	3 "	ditto	—
Leeches	40 "	288 per oke	6 per cent.
Madder Roots	650 "	2,592 per kintal	13½ "
Morocco Skins	10 each	*ad valorem.*	—
Old Copper	7½ per oke	129 per oke	13½ per cent.
Skins, viz.—			
Sheep	3 to 4 each	64 each	13½ "
Lamb and Kid	1/10 "	36 "	80 "
Hare	1/25 "	2,304 per 100 skins	31 "
Seeds, viz.—			
Linseed	⅛ per oke	259 per 20 okes	17 "
Sesame	1 to 2 "	402 "	16 "
Sheep's Wool, coarse, ⅓ black, ⅔ white	400 per kintal	2,952 per kintal	24⅔ "
Valonea	60 "	960 "	40 "
Yellow Berries of Kaissarieh	15 per oke	403 per oke	22⅓ "

(Signed by thirty-one European and Native Merchants.)

Tarsous, May 29, 1845.

No. 16.

Mr. Vice-Consul Stevens to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(*Received July* 25.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

Samsoon, June 27, 1846.

IN compliance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of my reply to his Excellency's circular calling upon the Consular Officers to report upon any points requiring amendment in the Tariff of 1839.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. W. STEVENS.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Mr. Vice-Consul Stevens to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Samsoon, June 27, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to reply to your Excellency's circular despatch of the 8th instant, desiring me to furnish detailed statements respecting the points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, with such suggestions for improvement as I may be able to obtain from British merchants within my district.

There being no such merchants established here, I can only offer my own opinion on the subject, and that too, only as regards articles which more immediately interest the trade of Samsoon.

In the Tariff of importations I consider that a sensible reduction might be claimed in the duties now levied on British manufactures, the prices of which have so much declined since the Tariff was compiled, that few of the duties are less than 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, while others are much more, instead of the 5 per cent. contemplated by the Convention.

In the list of exports, the articles which chiefly interest Samsoon are Leaf Tobacco, Amassia Silk, Baffra Silk, Valonea, and Leeches.

The average value of tobacco has never exceeded 18 piastres per batman of 6 okes; the Tariff duty of 75 aspers per oke is therefore equal to 21 per cent.

The average value of Amassia silk may be stated at 110 piastres per oke; the Tariff duty of 2,880 aspers is therefore equal to 21½ per cent.

The same duty is charged on Baffra silk, the value of which is 85 piastres per oke, making the duty amount to about 28 per cent.

Valonea has been gradually depreciating in value in all parts of the country where it is produced. The duty of 960 aspers per kintal is equal to nearly 18 per cent. on what might be considered its value in this neighbourhood.

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that as the Tariff now stands, we are liable to pay, *over and above* the 12 per cent. fixed by the Convention, on

Tobacco	9 per cent.
Amassia silk	9½ "
Baffra silk	16 "
Valonea	6 "

On the other hand the duty on leeches might be very safely increased. Their fair average value throughout the year may be taken at 300 piastres per oke, on which 12 per cent. would be 4,320 aspers, while they are at present only subject to the trifling duty of 288 aspers, scarcely ⅔ per cent. *ad valorem*.

It may be contended that the value of articles in the place of produce

should not form the basis of a Tariff, since they must necessarily be cheaper there than in other parts of Turkey. In this case I would suggest the fairness of merchants being allowed the option of paying duties in kind, whenever those fixed in the Tariff should amount to much more than the 12 per cent. on the real value.

With regard to the commercial regulations, on which your Excellency also directs me to offer an opinion, I have merely to observe that Turkish authorities in the interior are not over-scrupulous about Treaties, especially where there are no Consular Agents to keep a check over them; and I have been frequently applied to by Europeans residing at some distance from Samsoon, for my protection against irregularities on the part of Turkish employés. In some instances I succeeded in removing abuses; in others I was compelled to refer to Her Majesty's Embassy. In such cases delay and inconvenience must occur, which would be obviated, were the Turks to act honestly up to the Treaty.

I have on more than one occasion mentioned in my despatches and reports, the enormous duties levied here on tobacco—both in its green and in its dry state. The former being taken from the grower, may be admissible as a land tax; but the latter, about 50 per cent. on the value, falls on the buyer, since the seller being made responsible for it, he adds it to his price in making a sale. Thus a merchant, purchasing tobacco, would be paying 50 per cent. duty at the purchase, besides 21 per cent. more when he exports it from the country.

The Leech trade at Samsoon is now a monopoly granted to certain individuals in consideration of their furnishing a certain quantity for the use of the hospitals at Constantinople, and no other persons are allowed to trade in the article under pain of imprisonment, the bastinado, and seizure of the leeches found in their possession. The legality of this monopoly is I think questionable, there being no article in the Convention of 1838 authorizing the Porte to grant it.

In compliance with your Excellency's instructions I have sent a copy of this despatch to the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. W. STEVENS.

No. 17.

Major Rawlinson to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 27. Consular.)

My Lord, *British Consulate, Bagdad, August 27, 1846.*

AGREEABLY to instructions contained in a circular letter adressed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte to Her Majesty's Consuls in Turkey and the Levant, under date June 8, 1846, I have the honour to forward herewith copies of two letters, with their inclosures, which I have recently transmitted to Constantinople, on the subject of the operation of the Tariff, and the general bearing of the Convention of Balti Liman on British commercial interests in this part of the Ottoman Empire.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. C. RAWLINSON,
Her Majesty's Consul at Bagdad.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Major Rawlinson to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir, *British Consulate, Bagdad, August 5, 1846.*

IN forwarding, for your Excellency's information, copy of a letter which I have received from Messrs. Hector and Co., merchants of Bagdad, containing suggestions for the improvement and additional security of British trade, I do myself the honour to add a few general remarks regarding the operation of the Treaty of Balta Liman in this part of the Turkish Empire, and in respect also to certain modifications and explanations which I venture to think might be introduced with advantage, should it be subject to revision.

British trade with Turkey is comprised under three heads, export, internal, and import, and to each of these accordingly I shall devote a few observations.

Exports.

Rates of duty and other effects.

That the Porte committed a serious mistake, as far as her own interests were concerned, in admitting foreign imports at 5 per cent., while she saddled her own produce with an export duty of 12 per cent. is now, I believe, generally felt and acknowledged; but that also British trade has also suffered from the arrangement appears to have been little noticed. I incline, however, to the opinion that in this part of the Turkish Empire, at any rate, the British merchant would find his benefit in an approximate inversion of the rates.

European produce and manufactures are indispensable to the wants of the community, and must be purchased in certain quantities liable to little or no fluctuation*, whatever be the price demanded, but it is entirely optional with the peasantry and farmers to supply produce in return for such consumption, and their activity or carelessness is of course regulated by the price which they can obtain for their labour. At present the British merchant of Bagdad disposes of his imports, knowing the caprices of the Turks and Arabs, and taking care not to overstock the market with sufficient regularity, but when he has realized the proceeds of his investment and searches for a marketable return, he is cramped and disappointed.

Produce is not available in quantities adequate for his purpose; the chief reason of its scarcity being, that the expense of carriage from so distant a quarter, and the heavy duty leviable on export (although this is to a certain extent, as I shall subsequently show evaded), do not admit of its commanding in the local market, a price sufficient to repay and encourage the farmers. Owing to this scarcity of produce, money also is current considerably above its intrinsic value. It cannot be remitted nearly at par, while bills on Europe of course command an enormous premium, and the merchant thus finds the profits of his sale absorbed in the losses of his return. If however the export duties were sensibly reduced, the evil would be to a certain extent obviated; and although I would not of course pretend to advocate any augmentation of the rates at which our manufactures are now admitted, I am disposed to think that in the distant provinces of Turkey, the advantage of obtaining returns, arising from a free or nearly free export, would enable British merchants to accept, if necessary, a certain increased liability on their imports. That it must at the same time be of far more advantage to the Turkish Empire to develope her own productive and industrial resources, than to encourage the importation of European manufactures, is too self-evident to require comment.

The above remarks apply particularly to the wood, galls, gums, drugs and native dyes which are transmitted by British merchants direct from Bagdad to the European markets: but the exportation by native traders† of dates, rice and wheat, to Muscat, Mauritius and India, which is already considerable, may also perhaps be deemed to be worthy of the

* This statement will be of course objected to by economists, who maintain that a scarcity of supply necessarily creates a demand, but if it is founded on actual experience of the Bagdad market, or comparing the custom-house entries of ten years back, when the trade with Europe was in the hand of a few monopolists, with those of the present time when prices have been reduced by competition nearly 100 per cent., I find no perceptible difference of consumption. The fact is, demand cannot increase beyond the limit of population, and that limit was reached at Bagdad many years ago.

† If we are not permitted to legislate for native traders importing our goods and manufactures, we might perhaps on the same principle claim to regulate the export by those parties of Turkish produce to India.

same encouragement*; not only as a means of improving the condition of Turkey, but in order to stimulate a demand for our colonial produce (indigo, sugar, spices, cotton and silk goods, &c.,) by furnishing marketable returns to meet the imports.

Operation of the Tariff.

The merchants of this place and of Moossul, have frequently expressed to me great dissatisfaction at the fixed rates of duty established in the Tariff, showing that such rates being calculated according to the Constantinople prices, far exceed on their application to wool, galls, gums and all other available articles of Mesopotamian export, the assumed maximum of 12 per cent. *ad valorem*, whether the value of the article be calculated at the place of production or at the shipping port of the Pashalic, which is Bussora. I had to draw your Excellency's attention to this subject, in a despatch, No. 4 of 1846, which I addressed to you some months back, and to suggest that the principle of an *ad valorem* duty at the place of production, should be substituted for a fixed liability at the port of shipment; but having since instituted further inquiries on the subject, I am now of opinion that the Bagdad merchants will best consult their own interests in abstaining from any further discussion of the subject. They can hardly expect, indeed it appears to me (unless the rate of export duty should as before suggested, be sensibly reduced,) to obtain under authority any arrangement more favourable to commerce, than that which under sufferance exists at present; for not only do they practically enjoy the privilege of paying an *ad valorem* duty at the place of production; but owing to the Turkish system of farming the customs of each particular town to different and rival parties, they are enabled to export produce at a rate considerably below the true liability. There are for instance in this neighbourhood at present three custom-houses in active competition, at Moossul, at Bagdad and at Bussora. A merchant sending wool from one place to the other for shipment makes his proposal to each of the different custom-house farmers, and wherever he can obtain a certificate of full payment at the lowest rate, there he discharges his liability; the adequacy of a Moossul custom-house clearance, for instance, to exempt goods from payment at Bagdad and Bussora, (and even as I have been assured in Syria and Constantinople,) having never yet been challenged; and in the event of the Moossul custom-master underbid by his competitors, the Fourth Article of the Treaty, enabling the merchant to resist his demand for duty, and to pass on his goods to an easier claimant. Disputes have not unfrequently occurred when the local custom-master has thus been deprived of what he considers his dues; for the place of production is certainly regarded by the Turkish authorities in this quarter as the proper and preferable place of payment and the proceeds of the custom-houses are thus calculated; but of course when the case has been referred to me, I have declined to recognise any legal arrangement but that of full payment at the port of shipment. I have indeed signified to the merchants, that I consider the practice of obtaining false certificates, (paying for instance 8 per cent. for an acquittance for 12 per cent.,) to be fraudulent and discreditable; but they reply that under such an arrangement only can they export at remunerative prices, and that the fault does not rest with them, but must be ascribed to the vicious system of farming which pervades the entire financial constitution of Turkey.

It will be desirable also that your Excellency bear in mind that in praying for a reduction of the export duties, the merchants do not contemplate an abrogation of their right to make their own bargain with the custom-masters. By suggesting that they be allowed the option of paying at the first custom house they pass, they aim indeed at a legalization of the system of competition, and if the export duties were reduced from 12 to 8 per cent., they would still expect to clear out at 6 per cent.

I must further acquaint your Excellency that throughout the whole

* It will be seen in my report on the trade of Bussora, that during the last year the agricultural produce exported from that place to India and the Persian Gulf (the greater portion of the exports to the latter place finding their way eventually to India) exceeded 400,000 kerans, or £30,000.

period of seven years, during which the Convention of Balti Liman has been in force, the Tariff in this part of the Turkish Empire has, as far as exports are concerned, been almost inoperative. Such indeed must have been inevitably the case, for the standard weights of Constantinople, the quintal and the kilo, are unknown in Mesopotamia, and the Bagdad oke also varies very considerably from that in use at the capital. It has thus happened that the Turks being without any standard of reference, have never questioned our right to settle *ad valorem*, if that mode of payment were preferred to a fixed duty, which by mutual agreement was in the first instance arranged on certain staple articles at the custom-houses of Bagdad and Bussora. The chief exports to India, I must add, horses and dates, are not even mentioned in the Tariff, and it would have been impossible therefore to apply to them a Constantinople rate. I think, however, that in the event of a revision of the Tariff and Treaty, there should be some notice of horses, and I will briefly explain my reasons. This branch of trade between Bussora and India is very considerable*, and it is yearly on the increase.

Export duty on horses.

It is one, moreover, on which the Turks might I think more legitimately and advantageously realise a revenue, than on the export of any species of agricultural produce or manufacture. At present they exact a mere fee on exportation, which does not amount to 5 per cent., and they do not seem to be aware of their right to regard horses as native produce. Sooner or later, however, it is most probable that they will perceive their error, and the chances are, that the rate will be then as much too heavy as it is now too light. Hitherto the traffic has been entirely in the hands of Arab dealers established in Bombay and Calcutta; but British merchants are now turning their attention to it, which renders it particularly desirable that in order to avoid misunderstandings, horses should be declared under authority to be subject to the same rate of export duty as other articles of native produce. If it be considered a gratuitous and impolitic act, thus to anticipate an increased liability, I would observe that the parties for whom horses are imported to India are of all others the best able to pay an increased price, in order to secure the Turkish Government their full and legitimate dues; that the principle of an *ad valorem* on the exportation of horses and mules has already been recognized and acted on in Persia; and that the voluntary concession to the Turks of their right to raise the duty on this class of exports might be a convenient set-off against a remission of the oppressive rates on produce required for the home market.

Internal Traffic.

I have now to examine the most considerable and the least defined of any of the various branches of trade which affect British interests in this part of the Turkish Empire. For one dispute which occurs regarding exports or imports, I have at least a score of references on questions connected with a traffic in native produce for internal consumption, and I am rarely able to satisfy either my clients or myself. As a general question of commercial policy, the British Government no doubt must feel comparatively indifferent with regard to the organization of a trade which diverts capital from the home market into foreign channels, and which the more it is prosecuted the more it may be presumed will it impede the extension of our own domestic commerce; but the merchants on the other hand observe, that at this distance from England, and in a thinly-populated country like Mesopotamia, they cannot find a sustained employment for their funds without engaging extensively in local traffic, and they add with justice, that any profits arising from this traffic are subsequently invested in the home market. It would appear, then, that their claims deserve at any rate to be heard, and I proceed accordingly to notice the chief points of embarrassment.

Monopolies.

The first question refers to monopolies, and appears to be particularly alluded to in the official note submitted by the Porte to the European Legations on the 11th of last May. Your Excellency is no doubt aware

* The horses exported last year from Bussora to India were valued at very nearly £60,000.

that in every town in the East, from the Bosphorus to the Himmalaya, there have been from time immemorial a variety of local monopolies which form the town dues, and which are in fact equivalent to the excise duties and taxes on luxuries of European cities. The chief monopolies at Bagdad may be classed as follows:—supply of oil, manufacture of soap, trade in bitumen, dyeing longcloths, printing ditto, tanning, cleaning raw cotton, refining spirits, storing grain, &c., &c. Now the question is, how far British merchants can interfere with these municipal regulations. I have always asserted the privilege of our merchants to deal freely in all species of native produce, importing oil, soap, bitumen, alkali, and other articles which are prohibited to the native traders, but I have felt that in so doing we are straining our privileges to the utmost, and in fact that by interfering with these monopolies we are seriously injuring the Government, and obtaining an undue advantage over the subjects of the Porte. The question has been put to me as to whether a British merchant can dye his own cloths at Bagdad (having paid the import duty on the cloths and the indigo) and then dispose of them without being subjected to any local tax, and I have answered in the affirmative; but I must say that I think the Porte may complain with justice in this respect of the latitude of interpretation allowed to the second clause of our Treaty.

The above remarks refer to a trade in articles which are positively prohibited to the subjects of the Porte, and on which accordingly there is no duty that can be made applicable to British merchants, but there is still remaining a question of equal embarrassment as to the maximum of liability to which a British merchant is subject in dealing in those other articles of native produce intended for internal consumption, a trade in which is permitted to the subjects of the Porte generally, but which is at the same time accompanied by a very heavy if not an oppressive taxation.

Internal duties.

It would be inconvenient to enumerate all the taxes which come under this head. They consist of transit duties levied under an hundred different names, by land and by water, tolls at ferries, bridges, or even at the passage of rivers where ferries or bridges have once existed, duties on carriage, monopoly of forming rafts for the conveyance of produce, and a whole host of minor fees levied at the custom-house, at the gates and in the market-places of Bagdad. They compose in fact that formidable array of interior taxation, which in reference to produce intended for foreign markets was commuted by the Treaty of Balti Liman for a fixed duty of 9 per cent. leviable at the port of shipment, but which still continues to apply to all articles of produce (sheep, grain, tobacco, dates, fruit, salt, firewood, vegetables, &c., &c., &c.) required for home consumption*. In many cases these duties, as they are exacted from subjects of the Porte, amount to as much as 20 and sometimes even to 30 per cent. Now British merchants, although by the 3rd Article of the Treaty of Balti Liman they can only claim equality with the most favoured class of Turkish subjects, pretend that that equality has a legal limit. They point to the Turkish Tariff, published under authority and embodying the finance regulations of the empire, where the aggregate charge on agricultural produce is fixed at 12 per cent.; and they show, moreover, that we appear to have had that limitation in view in adopting the same rate for the aggregate liability on exports. If a governor then of a distant province chooses arbitrarily and on his own responsibility to increase the rate from 12 to 20 per cent., they fall back on the Sultan's official guarantee as their ground of exemption from the local rapacity. I have hitherto in general succeeded in carrying this point, but never without much altercation and delay; and I would recommend accordingly, that in the revision of the Treaty there should be a distinct clause, defining in how far a British merchant engaged in the interior traffic of Turkey can interfere with the old-established and still-existing monopolies, and also to what aggregate amount of taxation he may be liable, in the purchase, transmission, and sale of agricultural produce intended for internal consumption.

* I see in His Highness the Sultan's Hatti-Sheriff dated June 20, 1846, there is a formal engagement to annul the Internal duties from next March. This will be a boon of the most vital importance to the poorer classes of His Highness' subjects, and will unquestionably greatly tend to the encouragement and extension of agriculture.

Imports.

The attention of the Government appears in the Treaty of Balti Liman to have been chiefly drawn to the importation of British goods into Turkey, and certainly nothing can be more favourable than the conditions applying to that branch of trade.

I have never been able however to assure myself of the meaning of the First Additional Article, and I have sustained much inconvenience in consequence.

Meaning of the 1st Additional Article.

The English draft indeed and the Turkish translation appear to be at variance on a very important question contained in this article; as I understand the Treaty, there are two distinct classes of goods, which are entitled to the privilege of import at 3 per cent. Firstly, British or colonial goods in the hands of Englishmen, foreigners or Turkish subjects; and secondly, all merchandize (that is, foreign as well as British goods) being the property of British subjects and imported in British vessels, and I further consider the Government in framing the Article in question to have aimed at combining a general protection of British goods and consequent extension of British commerce, with the acquisition of a special privilege for English merchants, in enabling them to import foreign goods on the same terms as those of our own country. The Turkish functionaries, however, in this quarter insist on reading the Article in question, as if the expression "embarked in British vessels and being the property of British subjects," referred to the two preceding clauses of the sentence, that is, to British goods as well as to "all merchandize;" and they fortify their argument by protesting against the possibility of the right having been conceded to a British agent to interpose his authority between the Turkish Government and Turkish subjects, merely because the latter parties have thought fit to import produce from India. The question at the same time is one of considerable importance in regard to the trade with India, and merits, I think, some attention. Your Excellency will have seen from my report on the trade of Bussora, that goods the growth, produce and manufacture of a British dependency (namely our colonial possessions in India), are annually brought into that port to the value of nearly 100,000*l*. Scarcely a tenth part however of this trade is in the British subjects. The main importers are Arab and Jew merchants, subjects of the Porte, established at Bagdad; and the rate of duty which they have hitherto paid varies according to the different articles, from 7 to about 12 per cent. About 20,000*l*. worth of the import is also subsequently transmitted into Persia by the same parties who commission the goods from India, and on this stock, which should as I believe be subject to no more than the original liability of 3 per cent. on importation, a further tax is levied on quitting Bagdad. British merchants are of course exempt from similar charges, and they are thus enabled to undersell their native competitors, but I doubt if the individual benefit accruing to these parties can be held to compensate for the general check which our Indian trade sustains by the distinction. The only difficult question appears to be as to who may be the proper party to interfere in favour of the importers. The Turks will certainly resist a claim that a British agent shall protect Turkish subjects, merely because the latter parties engage in the Indian trade, and yet in no other way can the provisions for the unimpeded admission of our goods be duly realized.

River dues.

Your Excellency will perceive that Messrs. Hector and Co. have again brought forward the question of the river dues, maintaining that the said dues constitute a tax upon British imports, in excess of the 2 per cent commutation for interior duties. As the Turks, however, have now drawn a distinction between British and Native bottoms, admitting the former to ascend the river of Mesopotamia with a cargo from India, without being subject to any extra payment, while they have determined that the latter (owned by British subjects as I suspect merely upon sufferance) must come under the operation of the same laws which regulate interior traffic in the hands of the natives, I doubt if the question is worth any further contesting. The argument of Messrs. Hector and

Co. that the boats being built of British materials are entitled on that account to some special consideration, will hardly stand a moment before the rigid and exclusive provisions of our Navigation Act; and I should be apprehensive that if any continued urgency were manifested, the Turkish Government might contest the legality of our merchants owning native boats at all, vessels being according to the law of nations a part and parcel of the soil of the country, and Englishmen being prohibited from holding landed or household property in the Turkish Empire. It may be satisfactory however to your Excellency to learn that I have resisted payment of the Qálibiyeh duty, which forms the heaviest item of the river dues, on a ground which I have only lately discovered, but which appears under present circumstances to be unexceptionable. Many years ago the Ottoman Government desirous of checking the disposition manifested by its subjects to attach themselves to the European Consulates, granted special firmans to some of the most respectable Turkish merchants, placing them on an equality in every respect with foreign traders, and specifying the local privileges which they would thus enjoy. Among the privileges so conferred at Bagdad was exemption from the Qálibiyeh duty, and I have accordingly stated that as long as these firmans remain in force at Bagdad, our merchants can claim the benefit of the indulgencies which they confer, according to the Third Article of the Treaty, which entitles us to the same privileges as the most favoured class of Turkish subjects. Should the firmans be cancelled, the point however must be I fear conceded.

Goods imported for transmission.

It only remains that I should notice in regard to the Treaty, the question of British goods imported into Bagdad for transmission to other countries. If a British merchant enter goods at the ports of Syria or at Bussora for transmission to Persia, he merely pays of course the import duty of 3 per cent.; but it is rarely that he can thus beforehand determine the amount and description of articles which will not be required in the Turkish market. It is in fact merely the merchandize which does not command a ready sale at Bagdad, that he finds it advisable to export, and he is thus obliged to pay the extra 2 per cent. on his whole investment. Messrs. Hector and Co. have suggested that the system of drawbacks should be introduced as in Europe; but in the present constitution of the machine of Government in the Turkish Empire, I cannot consider such an arrangement to be at all practicable. The farmer, for instance, of the Bagdad customs would be extremely loth to disburse the 2 per cent. levied by his competitor at Bussora, and in this case the two custom-houses are under the same Government. How then could it be expected that he should make a singular disbursement on account of sums realised at Beyrout, Alexandretta, or Samsoon, places over the financial concerns of which the Bagdad Government cannot exercise any control whatever? If any alteration should be attempted (and the obscure and almost irreconcileable provisions of the First and Third of the Additional Articles certainly require emendation in this respect) I would venture to recommend that the 3 per cent. should be alone levied at the place of importation, and that the goods should be placed in bond at the interior custom-house where the importer may reside, the additional 2 per cent. being levied at that interior custom-house on such portion of the goods as might be cleared out for sale on the spot, and the remainder being transmitted direct from the bonded place of deposit, free of any further charge to a foreign country. At Bagdad the difficulty is chiefly felt in regard to goods imported from India through Bussora for the consumption of Western Persia; and as I have before observed, the parties engaged in this trade being subjects of the Porte, the Turkish authorities, according to their interpretation of the first sentence of the First Additional Article, will not admit of my interference.

Before closing I beg briefly to draw your Excellency's attention to a few matters which, although they do not immediately concern the Commercial Treaty between Great Britain and the Porte, have still a very prejudicial effect on British trade in this part of the Turkish Empire.

Currency.

The first question regards the currency. Merchants of course will

not remit the proceeds of their investments in specie if they can obtain any marketable return; but here so great is the dearth of produce that they would be well content to send groups to Constantinople and India if the exchange were at par. Owing, however, to the demand for specie on this particular account every sort of currency is now at a premium. The old coins have been pretty well bought up, and nothing remains in the market but the Ghazi in gold and the Keran and Eyne piastre in silver. The ghazi, which is of course the most convenient for remittance, has been fixed by express orders of the Government in every other part of the Turkish Empire at 80 piastres*, but here it continues to command a value of 85 or 86 piastres. I would suggest then that the orders regarding the valuation of the ghazi which have been enforced in Syria, should also be extended to Bagdad. No doubt there would still be a trifling premium attaching to this coin in the market, whatever might be the tenor of the orders, but if the Pasha were to refuse to receive the ghazi at a higher rate than 80 Bagdad piastres, trade would be greatly benefited.

Adjudication of mercantile suits.

Another question regards the adjudication of mercantile disputes. Fraudulent transactions are of the most common occurrence at Bagdad on the part of the native traders in their dealings with the British merchants, and in all cases the points at issue are referred for adjustment to the Municipal Council. Now this council is composed for the most part of fanatical priests, who invariably support the Mahomedan against the Christian, and it thus happens that in no one single instance have I obtained for my clients what I consider to be even-handed justice. I would propose, therefore, as the Capitulations are deficient in any provisions for the adjustment of suits in which Englishmen are complainants in the provinces, we should be in such cases under authority privileged to be judged by the Governor, who, being thus personally responsible, would for his own credit take care to give an equitable decision. If indeed we could only get the principle acknowledged of our right to be judged in equity, instead of according to the (in many respects absurd) code of Mahomedan law, we should obtain, I think, a guarantee of no small advantage to the security and extension of our commerce.

Fee on realization.

The 2 per cent fee on realization, on which subject I addressed your Excellency in a former letter, has certainly also, although sanctioned by the Seventy-third Article of the Capitulations, grown into a gross abuse at Bagdad. No debtor will now pay a British merchant regularly or willingly, knowing that the latter party will give time rather than be saddled with the additional expense of employing a Government cavass. In the inclosure No. 2 to your Excellency's despatch No. 3 of the 25th of March last, it is stated that at Constantinople the Turkish authority is only appealed to recover debts for British creditors when other measures have proved ineffectual. What those other measures may be, however, I am unable to devine. At Bagdad certainly there is no middle course available between demanding payment of the debtor and complaining through the Consulate to the Government. The capitulation in question may have been suited to our relations with Turkey 200 years ago, but I think your Excellency will admit that it is unjust in principle, and that it is hardly becoming our present influential position in the Ottoman Empire.

In all civilized countries, and also in Persia, the law expenses and bailiff's fees fall upon the recusant debtor, and not on the party who is compelled to appeal to authority for the realization of his dues.

Having, as your Excellency is aware, but little experience in commercial matters, I trust the above remarks may be received with indulgence.

And have, &c.,

(Signed) H. C. RAWLINSON,

Consul at Bagdad.

* That is piastres of Bagdad, four of which are equal to one of Constantinople.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Messrs. Hector and Co. to Major Rawlinson.

Bagdad, July 30, 1846.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter addressed to the house which I represent, dated 9th instant, accompanied by an extract of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, regarding the operation of the Tariff now in force in the Ottoman dominions, and inviting us to furnish you with such suggestions on the subject as our experience may lead us to believe will be of assistance in promoting British trade in this Pashalic.

1st. One of the greatest drawbacks to the trade of this province is the want of exports in return for British manufactures, the exorbitant duties levied in native produce preventing it from affording a remunerative price either to the producer or exporter. In addition to the 12 per cent. fixed by the Tariff, produce, while in the hands of natives, is subjected to a heavy tax at every town or village it passes before it falls into the hands of the exporter, which, in some instances, amounts to 17¾ per cent. (as per annexed memorandum marked No. 1,) which necessarily reduces its value at the hands of the producer till he finds it inadequate to the expense and labour incurred in raising it. Wool and galls form the two principal articles of export from this province at present, and under an enlightened and liberal Government cotton, hemp, and numerous other species of produce might be added. I would recommend a considerable reduction of the export duties on these articles of native produce as a measure tending not only to increase British trade, but promising also to be productive of a decided benefit to the country itself. Whatever amount of duty may hereafter be fixed I would also suggest that an *ad valorem* rate should be paid on all produce, instead of a fixed Tariff duty (as is the case in many instances in the present Tariff,) without any reference whatever to the value of the article. For instance, I shall quote the article wool. The respective duties of 2,214 and 738 aspers per quintal are fixed by the Tariff upon that article, without reference to the value of the article itself or to the place of its production, the rates being evidently calculated according to the Constantinople market value, or to that of the finer wool of Asia Minor. Again, any description of produce at the port of Bagdad or Bussora, so far removed from a European market, is not of the same value as the same article would be at Constantinople or any of the ports in the Mediterranean. I would further suggest that the exporter should have the option of paying the duties at the first custom-house the produce may pass, being enabled thereby to avoid paying a per centage on the heavy transit expenses which, if the rates are fixed at the shipping port, will be included in the valuation of the goods. In the present system of renting customs, the farmer of an interior custom-house will always be glad to allow a reduction on the fixed duty rather than run the risk of the exporter sending on his produce to the next custom-house. This competition between the custom-house must of course, as a general measure of finance, act unfavourably to Turkish interests, yet it is inseparable from the system of farming, and I think may deserve encouragement, inasmuch as it greatly facilitates British trade and enables the exporter to pay a higher price for produce at the place of production; thus, to a certain extent, tending to equalize the value of produce throughout Turkey, and being a decided benefit to places far removed from a shipping port. In all countries where specie is exported to any extent, in return for its imports, as is the case in this province, trade is extremely hampered; the country against which is the balance of trade becomes impoverished, and the consumption of manufactures must decrease. I am therefore of opinion that it would not only extend British trade but would be of an infinite benefit to the country itself, to draw out its exports, directly or indirectly, on as low a duty as possible, the natural result being to increase the value of produce and encourage its production.

2nd. Trebizond in the north and Bagdad in the south, are the two principal emporiums that supply Persia with British goods from the west. Consequently the import trade at Bagdad is considerable; and I should

say one-third or one-half of the imports are re-exported into Persia, but under the disadvantage of having paid the full amount of the two duties, *i. e.* the 3 per cent and 2 per cent. in Syria, in consequence of their having changed hands; it would therefore be of a decided advantage to the import of British manufactures here, if in revising the Treaty a clause could be added, stating that the 2 per cent. should only be paid when the goods are sold for retail, and not when transmitted or sold for transmission into the interior. If the goods remained in the hands of the importer the matter would be simple enough; but this is not the case, they pass through several hands in the course of transit; and I would therefore submit, in transmitting goods from Syria to Bagdad for instance under the 3 per cent., that a guarantee should be taken from the parties clearing out the goods, providing for the production of a certificate within a certain time of the goods having been duly entered at the custom-house for which they were cleared out. The same remarks will also apply to the transmission of goods from Bussora. The goods having arrived at Bagdad, I would suggest that in clearing them out, if they are not exported at once into Persia (which will very seldom happen as all Orientals prefer examining the goods), the party concerned should pay the 2 per cent. duty or be responsible for it, and report such goods as he may afterwards export or sell for exportation, and claim the drawback; by this means, the custom-house here would receive 2 per cent. on the goods consumed in the place and lose nothing on the export to Persia.

3rdly. Among the principal articles of British manufactures consumed in Bagdad and its vicinity, are white Tanjibs and bleached longeloths, (which are printed by the hand into a peculiar kind of Arab handkerchief which we cannot imitate in England,) these articles are subject by a dyeing monopoly to about 57½ per cent. on the value of the article, (as per annexed Memorandum marked No. 2.) notwithstanding the dye itself being entirely British produce, and having paid the duty on importation. If this monopoly, which I hold to be an indirect taxation on this particular class of manufactures, were removed, the consumption would at least be double, and I would strongly recommend the abolition of it being insisted upon.

4thly. Another serious drawback to British trade here is the amount of duty levied upon loaded boats on their passage from Bussora to Bagdad, and *vice versa*, which amounts on the passage up, to 4,185¼ piastres of Constantinople, and on the passage down to 1136½ (as per annexed Memorandum No. 3.) These duties are sanctioned and authorized by the Local Government, part of the amount being actually paid to the Government authorities at Bagdad and Bussora. They are levied directly on the cargoes, and not upon the boats, as empty boats pass free. The Arab chiefs, also, on the bank of the river, who make the exactions, are under the control of the Turkish Government, and pay regularly a large tribute in money, part of which is thus obtained; so that the duties charged in the above manner are actually an increase by the Turkish Government on those sanctioned by the Treaty. In 1842 we laid this case before Colonel Taylor, then Her Majesty's Consul at Bagdad, and in February 1843, before His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in the hope of recovering a large sum of money exacted from us on a large quantity of British manufactures. At the same time we stated that the charges in question were only partially levied, and that trading-vessels of persons connected with the Government (as Abdul Kader Agha, the late Gumrukchee of Bagdad, for instance) paid nothing. And again, we think it proper to remark that in June 1846, a large trading-boat belonging to some person connected with the present Government came up from Bussora, laden with a cargo of merchandize, the nokada of which was furnished with letters from the Government to the authorities on the river, which exempted her entirely from the payment of any of these duties, while other boats in company with her were obliged to pay. If any doubt, therefore, remained on the subject, this would prove that the duties in question are taken with the concurrence and sanction of the Government. I beg to mention a circumstance that has just occurred, in order

to show how aggravating these taxes are. We are now sending down a boat of our own to Bussora, and at the same time have a few bales of wool which we also wish to transmit; but as the quantity is very small, and as the circumstance of the boat having one single bale on board renders her liable to the whole duties, we have preferred sending her down empty and paying a heavy extra freight for the conveyance of our wool to Bussora by another boat, which is laying on for a full cargo, in order to enable her to meet the taxes. I may add, that the boats trading between this and Bussora, although not *bonâ fide* British-built, have still some claim to consideration, for every plank and nail contained in them, as well as all their rigging and materials, are imported from India, and have consequently paid the import duties before they are put together.

5thly. The raft monopoly at Moossul is another tax on British goods in their transit from Syria to Bagdad. At present that monopoly charges for the conveyance of goods from Moossul to Bagdad 100 Constantinople piastres per cantar of 600 lbs., two-thirds of which go to the farmers of the monopoly and one-third to the people who really construct the rafts and convey the goods to Bagdad; thus making a direct tax of 66⅔ piastres on every cantar of goods, which on an average amounts to about 1 per cent. on the value of the goods.

6thly. There are two other questions deeply affecting British trade at this place, which I shall embrace in the present remarks, notwithstanding I had the honour of addressing you on the same subject, under date 20th January last; viz., the tax of 2 per cent. upon the entire sum which British merchants are compelled to pay to Government officers, who are employed in collecting their debts. Although I am aware that this levy is authorized by the 73rd Article of the Capitulations, we may perhaps be allowed to remark upon the great inconvenience and loss to which we are subjected by it. It acts as an inducement to our debtors to defer payment of their debts, and to contract their payments when called upon by our agents, as in both instances the inconvenience and loss fall upon the merchant alone. These facts have become so notorious that the merchant is now compelled to have recourse to Government officers for the recovery of at least three-fourths of his debts. It would seem but reasonable that as it is not customary to receive interest on debts withheld, the debtors who wilfully persist in deferring payment of their just liabilities should be subjected to the expenses arising from their refusal and delay.

The other circumstance which I would beg to submit is, that in cases of natives of Turkey becoming insolvent and absconding, if they have landed property, it appears from the present law of Turkey, such property cannot be sequestrated and sold for the benefit of their creditors during their absence. This is a circumstance which frequently occurs, and subjects the merchant to great inconvenience and loss; and it is an inducement for insolvent debtors to abscond, knowing that their absence is a protection to their property. I would therefore suggest that in such cases some provision be made to enable the local authorities to exercise the right of sequestering and disposing of absentee debtors' property for the benefit of those concerned.

Trusting that, should you consider these hasty remarks worthy of consideration, you will lay them before Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte,

We have, &c.,
(Signed) ALEXANDER HECTOR & Co.

Memorandum No. 1.

Road Taxes on 9½ Loads of Sheep's Wool, weighing 60 Maunds, on its way from Jissan to Bagdad.

			Reijo Piastres.
60 maunds of Sheep's Wool, at Reijo piastres 125 per maund			7,500 0
Taxes.			
At Jissan, in 9½ loads, at Reijo piastres 30 1/16	228 20		
At Meadlie, in 9½ do., " " 101 7/32	964 20		
At Bacobo, in 9½ do., " " 15	142 20		
		1,335 20	
Total Reijo piastres		8,835 20	

Being nearly 17¾ per cent. on the cost of the wool.

Memorandum No. 2.

Note of Taxes levied by the Dyeing Monopoly at Bagdad.

Value of a Ps. of Tongibs at Bagdad is Reijo piastres 111.

Amount levied by the Dyeing Monopoly, per Ps.	Reijo piastres	55
Stamp duty, per Ps.	"	12
Refteah or export duty, Ps.	"	7
		74
Deduct value of Indigo (which is the only dye used) and labour		10
Total Reijo piastres		64

Equal to 57⅔ per cent. nearly.

Memorandum No. 3.

List of Duties on a Loaded Boat, with Cargo, on her passage from Bussora to Bagdad.

	Eyno Piastres.
Bussora, per boat	100
Gurna, "	3½
Zitcheah, including dates, &c.	106
Beni Lam	93
Ditto in dates, coffee, &c.	32
Coot, including dates, &c.	9
Zobaid, including dates, &c.	19
Daur	9
Shummer	15
Bagdad Ghalibeah	135
Ditto Gumruk	10
From Bussora upwards Eyno Prs.	531½

Equal to Constantinople piastres 4,155½, or £38 sterling.

List of Duties on a Loaded Boat on her passage from Bagdad to Bussora.

	Eyno Piastres.
Galibeah	60
Zitcheah	77
Gurna	3½
Bussora	3½
From Bagdad downwards	144

Equal to Constantinople piastres 1,136½, or £10 *6s. 4d.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 17.

Major Rawlinson to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir, *British Consulate, Bagdad, August* 19, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter from Messrs. Lynch and Co., merchants of this place, on certain questions of trade, which has reached me since I had the honour to address you my despatch No. 45 of the 5th instant. In preference to drawing up another despatch on the subject of British trade in this Pashalic, I have thought it better to append in half-margin to the letter in question, such observations as appeared to be necessary to the due explanation and consideration of Messrs. Lynch and Co.'s suggestions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. C. RAWLINSON.
Consul at Bagdad.

Inclosure 4 in No. 17.

Messrs. Lynch and Co. to Major Rawlinson.

Bagdad, August 7, 1846.

WE have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 9th ultimo, under cover, with an extract of a despatch dated the 8th of June last, addressed to you by his Excellency the British Ambassador at Constantinople, regarding the bearing of the existing Tariff on our commercial interests here, and requiring any observations which our trade may have practically suggested.

2. In reply to which, and with reference to the Tariff, we should wish to remark that we always found that the two duties therein fixed on articles of export, being the produce of Bagdad and its vicinity, far exceeded 12 per cent. *ad valorem*, when they come to be exported at Bagdad, for instance, galls, madder and hides. The higher value of these articles in the ports of the Mediterranean and Black Sea induced, perhaps, those gentlemen who framed the Tariff to calculate the article at a high valuation, for we have always, after reference to the Tariff, and comparison of the price at Bagdad with their fixed duties, been led, when possible, to abandon the Tariff and have recourse to the 12 per cent. *ad valorem*, always attended with difficulty and delay.

It will be seen that Messrs Lynch and Co. admit their being allowed the local privilege of abandoning the fixed rates of the Tariff, in favour of an *ad valorem* liability, but state that the arrangement is attended with difficulty and delay. My own opinion is, that the Tariff, both in reference to exports and imports, has been in the Bagdad Pashalic up to the present time almost inoperative.

Messrs. Lynch and Co. appear to refer to the preamble of the Russian Tariff of 1844, in which there is no allusion to a liability to interior duties or to a fixed commutation for such duties, and in virtue of which Armenian traders certainly, at this place, furnished with Russian passports, have succeeded not unfrequently in importing goods at an advantage of 2 per cent. over British merchants.

It has always appeared to me, however, that the interior duties for which the French and English accepted a fixed liability, and which were then generally abolished on European imports, might be revived with a special application to Russia, so long as that Government declined to enter into a convention similar to that of Balti Liman, and that British merchants would, under such circumstances, have the advantage of their Russian competitors. It is to be presumed that the question of interior duty has been definitively settled in the new Russian Treaty, and whatever privileges may have been conceded by that Treaty to the Government in question will of course accordingly become our right by the First Article of the Convention of Balti Liman.

The question of the boat duty has already been amply stated and considered. It is declared to be a liability appertaining to the interior traffic of the country, and is supposed to be incurred by British merchants for the privilege of navigating interior Turkish waters in Turkish bottoms. The merchants would be relieved from it by bringing their goods direct to Bagdad in British registered vessels, or by having them conveyed overland from Bussora. Compensation for plunder would fall heavily on the Government of an exposed province like that of Bagdad, where the roads are infested in every direction by wandering Arab and Kurdish freebooters, who are not only independent of control but who could hardly be brought under control by any means within the compass of the Turkish Government as it is at present constituted and administered.

3. The progressive cheapness of English goods has caused the import duty fixed by the Tariff to amount to 4 per cent. on its present value instead of 3 per cent.—this applies to goods of every description; and the chances of these goods becoming still much cheaper might induce a revision of the present Tariff on this occasion, when we hope the interior duty of 2 per cent. (no longer paid by our Russian competitors) will be removed.

4. It would be greatly to the interest and extension of our trade did our Government, in consideration of our peculiar position here, conclude arrangements with the Sublime Porte, relative to the security from exactions or plunder of our goods in transit, to be in every possible instance accounted for to the British merchant by the local Government; we do here particularly allude to those exactions levied on our boats laden with English or Indian goods (empty boats and those belonging to Government being alone clear) by the Arabs under Government sanction or otherwise. To exempt us on the spot, while in transit, from paying those exactions would be exposing the goods to the rage of these freebooters. It would be wise, therefore, in this respect to deal with Government alone, who could repay themselves in their annual miri taken from these people, and we should suggest here the same rule to hold good with respect to plundered property, as these heavy sums paid as duty to the Arabs, and

losses from plunder, greatly retard and seriously effect the extension of British trade in this pashalic.

5. The privilege seemingly secured by Treaty of transporting Turkish produce from place to place without paying district tolls or *bádge*, which in this pashalic amount generally to a sum ranging from 12 to 20 per cent. on its value, making the same equal to a monopoly, is so annulled by the 3rd Article of the Treaty placing us in competition with the native, who to trade generally monopolizes the revenue of the particular articles or district from Government, and it is so well known by continual references and disputes, that though partially secured in our favour, yet the cause of dispute might be removed to our advantage, by the duty and place of levying it being adequately defined.

This subject is particularly noticed in my despatch No. 45 of the 5th instant, forwarding the letter of Messrs. Hector and Co. on questions connected with the Bagdad trade. The merchants would desire, for the regulation of their traffic in native produce for internal consumption, the recognition of a fixed aggregate liability of 12 per cent. at the place of production; but it must not be lost sight of, that this privilege would give them great advantages over the native traders, and would thus aggravate the jealous feeling with which their interference in the domestic supply of the Turks is already regarded.

6. It would be of use to us, could a clause be introduced of securing to the British merchant any privilege in the several pashalics of the empire, which they at present enjoy, under which we could resist the payment of 2 per cent. on recoveries now about to be demanded, and retain other privileges granted to the East India Company by the Pashas here.

Doubtless British merchants have hitherto enjoyed in this pashalic many advantages unknown in other parts of the Ottoman Empire, advantages which have accrued from the extensive mercantile and political relations established more than a century ago by the East India Company with the Turkish rulers on the Tigris and Euphrates, regarded as independent officers, and retained in something of their original spirit to the present day.

Some of these privileges may be thus stated—owning Turkish boats, freedom from the *Qálibiyeh* duty on such boats at Bagdad; ample powers of protection, not only to servants, but to brokers, agents, &c., and the exemption of all such parties from *Haráj*, and generally from Turkish jurisdiction; exemption from the fee on realization; occasional freedom of ground held in the name of Turkish subjects from assessment, &c., &c., &c.

Since the French Government has established a Consul-General at Bagdad, claiming an equality of right with any other European representative, and the British functionary acts with the Governor of the pashalic in immediate subjection to the Porte, not as the East India Company's commercial or political Resident, but as a servant of the British Crown, there has been of course a tendency to abrogate or

abridge all such unequal and in many cases invidious favours; and however advantageous it might be to the merchants to restore them in their original integrity, I do not see any public grounds upon which such a demand could be made.

(Signed) H. C. RAWLINSON,
Consul at Bagdad.

7. Knowing that the above have not escaped your careful observation from time to time, we humbly beg to subscribe ourselves, &c.

(Signed) S. LYNCH & Co.

No. 18.

Mr. Vice-Consul Rassam to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord, *Moossul, July* 10, 1846.

BY his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning's directions I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith a copy of my despatch No. 26, in answer to his Excellency's circular of 8th June, calling for a report on the Tariff of 1839.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. S. RASSAM.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Mr. Vice-Consul Rassam to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir, *Moossul, July* 10, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch marked circular, and dated the 8th ultimo, directing me to furnish statements in detail respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, with such suggestions for improvement as I might be able to obtain from British merchants within my district.

On the bearing of the Tariff as respects imports no remark offers to me. This branch of our trade, once of considerable extent, I am sorry to inform your Excellency has rapidly fallen off within the last few years, partly owing to the Swiss manufactures having in some degree supplanted the use of our printed cottons, but chiefly to the impoverished state of this province; and the only means now left to restore the import trade to its former position is to encourage that in exports.

Moossul possesses only three articles of export for the exterior, viz.: gall-nuts, sheep's wool, and sesame seed. The first have for many years been sent by the native dealers in large quantities to Aleppo, whence they find their way to Europe. The second has come into notice during the last two years, at all events till then the quantity exported was very inconsiderable, whereas this year nearly the whole growth has been purchased for Europe. For the third there yet remains a fair trial to be made. There are other descriptions of produce grown here, such as grain, cotton, and tobacco, but these are either used on the spot or are consumed within the neighbouring pashalics.

The export trade influences that in imports in this manner. As I have already frequently exposed to your Excellency, this province has been nearly exhausted of specie by a succession of rapacious governors, who have not left the people the means to purchase our manufactures, however much they may need them. Therefore our only plan is to take produce instead of coin in payment. But the present valuation fixed in lieu of the

9 and 3 per cent. *ad valorem* on articles of export is much overrated, even in some cases on the Constantinople prices, and would form a great drawback to the extension of the trade which it ought to be as much the desire of the Porte to encourage as it can be ours, were it not that by a special firman obtained by Injeh Mahomed Pasha the duties that ought to be paid at the sea-ports are allowed to be received by this custom-house, which always calculates them at 12 per cent. on the actual price of the day, than which nothing can be more fair.

By the Tariff the duty fixed on gall-nuts is 3,888 aspers for the 9 per cent., and 1296 for the 3 per cent., equal together to 43¼ piastres per kintal, which amounts to nearly 16 per cent. on 6 piastres per oke, a good price for the better qualities at Constantinople, and on 4 piastres per oke, what they would cost at Iskanderoon, is equal to about 20½ per cent.; and on the value of about 3 piastres per oke to 29 per cent.

On sheep's wool the Tariff is rated at 2,214 and 738 aspers, or 24 piastres per kintal, equal to about 12 per cent. on 200 piastres, a fair price at Constantinople, which is what it also comes to at Alexandretta; and on the first cost here of about 3 piastres per oke to about 18 per cent.

Sesame is rated at 302 and 100 aspers per kilo of 20 okes, or of piastres 3 15. I do not know what is the value of this seed at Constantinople. It can be sent to Alexandretta at a cost of 2 piastres per oke, making the duty equal to about 8½ per cent.; but on the value here of about 31 paras, equals nearly 22 per cent. on first cost.

It would seem at all events fair that the internal duty of 9 per cent. should be calculated on the prices of the places of growth, and not as is now the case, on those of the sea-ports, where the price of poor goods has been so greatly enhanced by an expensive land carriage, as in some cases to have more than doubled.

One great advantage would be entirely to abolish the vexatious system of "Badjs" and all similar transit dues to be found on the Tigris at Tikrit and at various places on the caravan roads between Bagdad, Moossul, and Aleppo, which being generally arbitrary and consequently scarcely ever fixed, can merely be calculated beforehand, even when their existence is known. Although it is contrary to treaty, there is a constant endeavour to oblige payment of these "Badjs" even on our manufactures which have paid the 3 and the 2 per cent. at the sea-ports, and also on Turkish produce purchased for exportation, which of course gives rise to numerous complaints and references in the case of European merchants, and in that of the natives they have quietly to submit. It would seem much more simple to fix regular duties on goods intended for internal trade, say 9 per cent. on entry into a chief town, and 3 per cent. on departure, and after receiving a regular teskéré the goods to be free from all further imposts.

Grain, by the Mahomedan law, except when leaving Turkey, is exempt from all dues beyond the "ashur" or tithe, but nevertheless a duty of 12 per cent. is exacted on its removal from one pashalic to another, and sometimes also "Badj." Now were it again to be free, the famines which occasionally occur in these countries would not be felt so severely as they now are, for there would be a greater inducement to transport corn from districts where it abounded, to others where it was scarce, and this facility might even perhaps stimulate a more extensive cultivation, for which there is so much room. A starving district pays sufficiently for imported grain in carriage alone. Wheat was purchased here this year at 70 to 80 piastres the toghar, and went to Aleppo at a carriage of 160 piastres.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. S. RASSAM.

No. 19.

Lieutenant-Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 35.)

My Lord, *Broumana, September* 8, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of my despatch No. 2 to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at the Porte, in reply to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning's circular of the 30th May last.

I venture to observe that it is a general opinion amongst the best informed persons, that the export duty of 12 per cent. is too high, and acts prejudicially, not only on the Turkish Treasury, but on the British mercantile interest.

These persons think that British capital would be applied to the improvement of other Syrian products besides silk, were the duty lowered so as to give them a remunerating price.

Of course if the export of products were increased the Turkish revenue would be proportionately increased.

I know of nothing more likely to encourage the extension of British trade to the south of Syria than the reduction of the export duties.

There is a peculiarly fine quality of oil produced in the neighbourhood of Acre which would form an important branch of commerce.

With respect to the statement of Mr. Consul Finn relative to the state of commerce in the south of Syria, I have the honour to say that there have never been any more British commercial houses than the one specified by Mr. Finn; therefore there has been no falling off in that respect.

The only place where British trade has ever existed to any extent is Beyrout, Alexandretta and Aleppo.

The annual returns show that in these places British trade has been gradually increasing since 1840.

The Vice-Consul of Sidon is in mistake as to the monopoly of coffee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

Lieutenant-Colonel Rose to the Hon. H. Wellesley.

Sir, *Broumana, August* 23, 1846.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning's circular of the 30th of May last, I have the honour to inclose to you a copy of a report from Mr. Consul Moore, inclosing five communications from the British merchants of Beyrout, respecting points in which the Tariff of 1838 in their opinion requires amendment.

My report would have been transmitted at an earlier period, but I waited for the arrival of the reports from the different Consulates. That from Jerusalem has not yet reached me. The native Vice-Consul at Tyre by the direction of Mr. Consul Finn has sent me his report; but as it merely relates to internal trade I do not forward it.

I do not inclose the reports of Her Majesty's Consuls at Aleppo and Damascus, because those gentlemen inform me that they have transmitted them directly to Her Majesty's Embassy.

The several reports from Syria appear to me to be generally so well drawn up and so grounded on fact, that little is left for me to say in the way of observation or information.

I think, however, that it may be of use to present to you, in a condensed form, the substance of the opinions of the British Consuls and merchants in Syria, and then to offer a few observations relative to them and the amendment of the Tariff.

1. Mr. Consul Werry points out the inconvenience resulting to commerce from an infraction of the IVth Article of the Convention of 1838, which states that the 9 and 3 per cent. on exports shall be paid at the place of shipment and on exportation.

Mr. Werry also states the inconvenience caused by the desire of the farmers of custom-houses at different sea-ports to gain for themselves the import duties of 3 and 2 per cent., or part of them, and of that of the merchants to save them.

Mr. Werry finally shows that a duty called "Badj," which presses on British commerce, is levied indirectly on goods, on the plea of protection and improved state of roads, neither of which however exist.

The merchants of Aleppo desire a revisal of the Tariff, which on account of the change in the Turkish currency and other reasons which they state, considerably exceed the *ad valorem* rates established by the Convention of 1838.

2. Mr. Consul Moore opines also for a revision of the Tariff rates.

Mr. Moore points out the difference of interests which he thinks seems to induce the British merchants who import to prefer upon the whole the establishment of an *ad valorem* duty, and the exporters to oppose it in the same degree.

Mr. Moore thinks also that the high rate of 12 per cent. export duty is prejudicial to the British manufacturer and exporter, the revenue, and the producer.

The British merchants of Beyrout are anxious for a revisal of the rates of the present Tariff, for the same reasons as those stated by the Aleppo merchants.

The above is the substance of the opinions of the British Consuls and merchants resident in those parts of Syria in which there is the most considerable British commercial interest. I have not alluded to any observation based on the supposition that Russians still trade with advantage over British merchants, inasmuch as the new Russian Treaty has caused those advantages to disappear.

I now have the honour to offer a few observations on the opinions transmitted from Syria, and to make one or two suggestions as to amendments in the Tariff and as to British trade in this country.

The merchants of Damascus are in error, I conceive, firstly, in supposing that there is any doubt as to where the duty of 9 per cent. should be paid, inasmuch as the IVth Article of the Convention of 1838 specifies that it is to be paid on its entry to the place of shipment; and secondly as regards the advantage of paying the duty at the place of produce, because by the Tariff the duty is reduced to a fixed rate in aspers, which rate would be the same, whether paid at the place of produce, or on entry at the port of shipment.

As regards imports I think that the opinions are well grounded that the Tariff should be amended, so that the rates of duty should be regulated with regard to the change of currency and the reduced quality and price of goods; in other words, that goods imported for the future should only pay in reality the import duties of 3 and 2 per cent., according to the wording and spirit of the Convention of 1838.

This desideratum might be attained by giving extension to the classification of imports of the same kind but of different qualities and colours, and allowing the importer to pay in kind if he preferred it, where the duty is payable *ad valorem*.

With respect to an *ad valorem* duty on imports it would appear that the merchants do not desire its adoption, except on those articles of which the classification is very difficult.

In speaking of imports I beg leave to direct your attention to the useful table drawn up by Mr. Black.

As regards exports I feel bound to support the opinion that the duty of 12 per cent. on silk is so high as to render the profit of the legitimate

trader precarious, when he must compete with the silk trader in other countries, where silk is not subject to so high an export duty, as well as with the advantages enjoyed by the contraband trader.

Moreover, it is clear that so high a duty as 12 per cent. on so valuable and portable an article as silk, in a country like the Lebanon, mountainous to the very shore, deprives the customs of a considerable share of duty by giving scope to the contraband trader, more especially as the maintenance of a preventive service is expensive in proportion as it is effective.

On the other hand, I must observe that the silk reeled and exported by British or European merchants does not in reality pay 12 per cent. export duty, inasmuch as the 12 per cent. was laid on raw, that is, country manufactured silk, which is of much inferior value, as will be shown below.

For example, the Arab uses nine okes of cocoons or thereabouts to reel one oke of silk, the European thirteen okes or thereabouts to reel the same quantity.

Therefore the European only pays the same duty on exporting silk manufactured from thirteen okes of cocoons, that the Arab pays on that manufactured from nine.

A kilogramme of European-reeled silk fetches from fifty to francs at Marseilles, whereas the kilogramme of Arab-reeled silk fetches only twenty-eight francs, both being made in the Lebanon from the same cocoons.

For these reasons the British exporting manufacturer is opposed to an *ad valorem* duty on silk, and I venture to express my entire concurrence in his opinion.

The duty *ad valorem* on silk would be a tax on the outlay of British capital and the industry and skill of our merchants, would in fact prevent the continuance of the manufacture and exportation of silk to England, which is almost the only return trade of importance for British imports.

The whole of the silk manufactured in the two British establishments in this country is imported into Great Britain, and worked up there, thus employing a great number of hands.

Whilst on the subject of the silk trade I cannot dwell sufficiently on the importance of giving all possible encouragement to this new and promising branch of trade with Great Britain.

The Porte did once contemplate, and had even sanctioned to a certain extent, a reduction of the 12 per cent. export duty on silk in the Lebanon; and one of the chief grounds for this concession was that, as no corn grows in the Lebanon, the price of food was proportionately higher there.

With respect to the inconvenience which has arisen from demands of the export duties by different farmers of the custom-houses, a remedy is found in a strict adherence to the IInd and IVth Articles of the Convention, the former of which is very stringent.

As regards the inconvenience mentioned by Mr. Werry, which results from the desire of rival farmers of customs to gain the import duties or a part of them, and of the merchants to save them, this evil arises solely, as I had the honour to state in 1843, from the system established by the Turkish Government of farming the customs of different districts to different parties, who gamble against one another, each party endeavouring to induce the merchant to pass his goods through his custom-house by offering him a reduced rate of duty.

I do not know of any effectual remedy for an evil which owes its existence to the system of Appalto.

As I am on the subject of imports I think that it may be apposite to observe, that I have reason to think that it would be an amendment of the Convention, were the IVth Article of the new Russian Treaty of Commerce adopted in lieu of our First Additional Article, which specifies that the commutation import duty is to be paid on the sale of goods, or on their being sent into the interior; for thus a greater advantage and facility would be afforded to the seller, and the purchaser would be relieved from the harassing annoyances to which he is now subjected by the present system of collecting the 2 per cent. duty at the gates, and which in the

case of small purchases affords an opportunity to the subordinate collectors to exact more than the Tariff duty.

But if the IVth Article of the new Russian Treaty were to be substituted for our 1st Additional Article, it should be stipulated further, that in case the goods should be shipped from the port of disembarkation for another port in the Turkish Empire, the bond for the 2 per cent. commutation duty should be returned to the importer.

It is my duty to state in conclusion, that the Turkish authorities in Syria have continued the monopolies of salt and leeches, a circumstance which has been communicated to Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

Mr. Consul Moore to Lieutenant Colonel Rose.

Sir, *Beyrout, July* 29, 1846.

ON the receipt of your circular No. 2, of the 24th ultimo, directing me to obtain for your information from the British merchants at this place, statements in detail respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1838 may require amendment, with any suggestions for improvement; I circulated the same amongst the commercial establishments here, and have now the honour to inclose five separate communications addressed to me upon the subject.

The reasons adduced by the merchants of Beyrout for a revision of the Tariff are clear and cogent; any additional observations on my part would therefore be superfluous.

It will be observed by the inclosed statements that some of the commercial houses here are exclusively engaged in the export trade, and that the business of others is almost entirely confined to imports. Their observations are accordingly directed to points of the Tariff more immediately connected with their respective interests.

If an *ad valorem* rate of duty would upon the whole seem to be preferred by importers, those engaged in the export trade would I apprehend be averse to that scale. Indeed, one of the most considerable of the export traders in silk expressed a decided objection to an *ad valorem* duty, alleging as a reason, that as silk reeled according to the European system, as it is by the English houses here, bears a much higher value than that wound by the ordinary process of the country, they would have to pay a proportionately higher duty. The Tariff rate is that of raw silk. Strictly speaking the reeled silk is manufactured.

Upon one point however there is perfect unanimity amongst all classes of traders here, both British and foreign, and that is in respect to the excessive rate of duty upon raw silk, the staple commodity of this part of Syria.

So high a duty as 12 per cent. is not only injurious to the producer, increasing as it does so materially the price of Syrian silk in the European market, but also acts prejudicially in respect to the revenue by offering a strong inducement to smuggling.

The English silk establishments urgently represent the injury the fair trader receives under a system so favourable as the present is (a high rate of duty and an inefficient revenue service) to the unprincipled trader; and I would respectfully direct attention to the observations of Mr. Taylor and of Mr. Scott upon this point.

As the object of the Turkish Government in levying so high a duty is not to repress the trade in silk but solely with a view to revenue, that object is defeated by the encouragement thus afforded to the contraband trader; and were a considerable reduction made in the duty, both the revenue and the producer would be gainers; the former in the full receipt of its dues, the inducement to smuggling being removed, and the latter by an increased demand.

But after all and whatever partial modifications be made in duties affecting British commerce, if the Tariff is not in every respect upon a basis of equality with that of other nations, our merchants will labour under disadvantages.

My meaning will be obvious on recalling to mind the effects produced by the Russian Tariff of 1842, viz. the rush of foreign merchants to Russian protection, and the use made by others of that protection on account of the advantages their Tariff afforded.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) N. MOORE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 19.

Mr. Taylor to Mr. Consul Moore.

My dear Sir, *Beyrout, July* 14, 1846.

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of a circular from the British Consulate of Beyrout, desiring the transmission of any observations I may wish to make upon the present Turkish Tariff, as it respects the interests of British commerce to this country.

I am quite unacquainted with the general provisions of the abovementioned Tariff, and shall therefore refer only to the duties payable upon the exportation of raw silk from Syria.

The general policy of laying any duty whatever upon the exportation of manufactured goods may perhaps be very fairly questioned; but setting this aside, the Turkish Government, I presume, impose a duty upon the exportation of silk from Syria merely for purposes of revenue, and not with any view of repressing export, and would therefore seek to lay on such a tax as would secure the largest possible return of revenue, consistent with the prosperity of the trade, and this revenue I think would be at least preserved at its present amount, and probably be considerably increased by a very important diminution of the present duties.

The duty at present levied upon the export of what we call the raw, but which is really manufactured, silk of this country, amounts to about 12 per cent., or about 2*s.* 5*d.* per pound English on silk of the value of 20*s.* per pound, a sum probably fully equivalent to the whole profit ordinarily looked for by the reeler. The temptation to smuggle is therefore very great. I am not in a condition to speak very positively on this point, but I apprehend I shall not be very far wrong in saying that not more than 15 per cent. of the whole quantity of raw silk annually exported to Europe from this country, ever pays any duty at all; and to those houses who do not chose to lend themselves to defrauding the Government in whose dominions they reside, the duty thus presses with great and unfair severity.

The lowering of the amount payable upon the exportation of silk, in a small degree, would I conceive tend neither to the benefit of the revenue of the State, nor to the relief of such of the merchants as at present pay the duties. A reduction to a very small duty of 2 or 3 per cent., with the present mode of valuation, would probably increase the total amount at present received, by rendering the profit upon smuggling not worth incurring the risk, or tend much to the encouragement of the raw silk exports of Syria.

The penalty upon detection of smuggled goods is I understand at present twice the amount of the duties payable. It would be to no purpose under the present arrangements to increase the penalty, as this would only lead to extensive bribery of the custom-house officers; but if the duty were largely reduced it would I think be reasonable and practicable very much to increase the penalty, say perhaps even to forfeiture of goods upon seizure.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM TAYLOR.

Inclosure 4 in No. 19.

Mr. Scott to Mr. Consul Moore.

Sir, *Shimlain, June* 30, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your circular of 24th instant, with copy of the letter addressed to you by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, respecting the Tariff of 1839.

As I am not at present engaged in the import trade of this country, I will not trouble you with any observations on that branch of the Tariff; the other British merchants, being importers, are more competent to furnish you with the necessary information. I however respectfully beg to call your attention to the present export duty on silk the produce of this country.

The value of Syrian silk just now ranges from 105 to 115 piastres the oke, and I think the present prices may be taken as a fair average for other years; the export duty on this silk is fourteen piastres the oke, or about 13 per cent. on value.

I think it may be fairly left to any impartial judgment, whether such an exorbitant duty be not unwise and highly impolitic. I am sure it will be found that this excessive duty has hitherto only acted as an inducement to wholesale smuggling, and has consequently diminished the custom-house revenues to a very great extent; indeed this is a fact notorious to every resident in Beyrout during the operation of the Tariff of 1839.

Besides the evil of depriving the Government of the country of a revenue, this exorbitant duty is a great hardship to the fair trader, whose principles will not allow him to condescend to contraband transactions; how is it possible for him to compete with the smuggler who has such great odds in his favour?

I have confined my observations to the duty on silk alone, as that is the only article in which I am personally interested; but I believe that the export duty on the other articles the produce of this country, will also be found too high; indeed the valuations formerly made of the produce of this country seem to me to have been determined without regard to their real value or quality, the valuations of Constantinople and Smyrna having been adopted, although the same kind of articles there are very superior in quality and value.

Every wise and enlightened Government has found its interest in rendering the export duty on the produce of the country as light as possible, and I hope the members of the Turkish Government and those who have influence in the formation of a new tariff for this part of the empire, will not fail to perceive the pernicious effects of the existing Tariff as regards the export duty on the produce of the country; and I trust, Sir, you will be pleased to represent to the proper authority the necessity there is for a reduction of the export duty, especially as regards silk, both as a means of producing more revenue to the Porte and as a protection to the fair trader against the reckless transactions of the smuggler.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN G. SCOTT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 19.

Mr. Heald to Mr. Consul Moore.

Sir, *Beyrout, July* 27, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your circular of the 24th ultimo, inclosing a letter from Colonel Rose, C.B., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General of Syria, requesting the British merchants within your Consulate

to furnish statements in detail respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment; also such observations as they may have to offer on the bearings of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade with Turkey.

I have already on former occasions joined with the other merchants of this place in expression of opinion respecting the bearings of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade. The principal objection to which was, that not being obligatory on Russian subjects, they gave them an undue advantage, inasmuch as they could both import and export goods at a considerable less rate of duty than the British trader.

But as I understand that the Russian Government has accepted of or made a Treaty of Commerce with the Turkish Government, similar in spirit to the British Treaty, in my opinion all great objections to the Treaty are now obviated.

With respect to the Tariff of Customs by which the British merchants import and export goods in the Turkish Empire, on the export duty I leave it to the export merchants to report, as being more competent to give an opinion on this part of the Tariff.

With reference to the import duties of the Tariff in question, without entering into a detailed statement, I am of opinion the whole Tariff requires a careful revision, particularly so far as affects the importation of British manufactures.

The full revision of this part of the Tariff is called for by the fact that the prices of goods have considerably declined since 1839, on prices of which date the rate of duty was fixed. Again, the quality of the goods imported is much inferior and of a lower value than the description of goods imported in 1839; and again, the raw material is much lower than in 1839, therefore, from the above consideration, I am of opinion that the interest of British merchants requires that a modification of the Tariff of import duties on British manufactures should be made, commensurate with the change in quality and price of goods and with the alteration in currency and exchange which have taken place since the Tariff was drawn up.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY HEALD

Inclosure 6 in No. 19.

Messrs. Black & Co. to Mr. Consul Moore.

Sir, *Beyrout, July* 16, 1846.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letter dated 25th ultimo, inclosing copy of a despatch addressed to you by Colonel Rose, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General in Syria, directing you to obtain from the British merchants within your Consulate, for his information, statement in detail respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, with any suggestions for improvement.

On reference to the former representation of the British merchants on the subject of the Convention and Tariff of 1838 and 1839, you will observe that the great grievance complained of was, the disadvantage under which they laboured as compared with the subjects of Russia. But we have reason to believe that this evil has recently been removed, by a new Convention entered into between Russia and the Porte, whereby the subjects of the former are placed on an equality with those of the other European Powers; and assuming our information to be correct we therefore confine ourselves to some observations on the Tariff.

Since the period when the Tariff of 1839 was constructed, changes have occurred to affect the value of the articles both of importation and exportation, and render necessary its being remodelled on the basis of the now current value. Among these changes the most important one has

been the reform in the Turkish currency, which proportionately reduced the exchange on England, and caused a corresponding fall in the price, in piastres, of every description of goods, whether the produce or manufacture of other countries whence they are imported, or the produce or manufacture of the Ottoman dominions, whereas the duty has continued to be levied at the Tariff rates, though paid at the reduced rates of currency.

There has also been a general reduction in the cost of the principal fabrics in the countries where they are produced, in consequence of which they can be furnished to the consumer in this country at much lower rates. The quality, likewise, of some descriptions of goods now imported is inferior to what it was some years ago, and hence another source of diminished value.

For these reasons the Tariff rates of duty in most instances greatly exceed the *ad valorem* established by the Convention of 1838.

The inclosed table, containing a list of the principal articles in which we ourselves trade, and regarding which we can therefore speak with the greater confidence, will we trust serve to illustrate what we have endeavoured to point out in the preceding paragraph. It shows the rates of duty payable upon the various articles according to the existing Tariff; the current value of those articles; what the amount of duty ought to be, in order to represent the rates as established by the Convention of 1838, and the excess of the present Tariff rates, with the addition of remarks on one or two important articles in the Tariff which we consider to be improperly classed.

You will observe that the table relates only to articles of importation; but we believe that on examination the export Tariff will equally be found to require revision. We are however not well versed in that department of trade, and therefore leave it to those who possess better information, to point out where amendment is desirable.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) WM. & ROBT. BLACK & Co.

Inclosure 7 in No. 19.

Imports.

Description of Merchandize.		Duty payable per Tariff.	Current value.	Duty on Current value.	Excess of present Tariff rates.
		Aspers.	Piastres.	Aspers.	Aspers.
Alum	cantar	360	82½	297	63
Cassia Lignea	oke	40	10	36	4
Cochineal	„	360	90	324	36
Coffee, West India	„	23	5½	20	3
Cotton Twist (quality usually imported here)	„	63	18½	48½	14½
Indigo, in chests	„	360	85	306	54
MANUFACTURES, viz.—					
Grey Calicoes of every description ..	„	73	15	54	19
Calicoes, dyed and sarsenetted, ⅞ 28 yards	piece	198	40	144	54
Cambrics, ⅞, twilled, called Bazin, 24 yards	„	180	30	108	72
Lappets, common, ⅞ 10 yards	„	100	20	72	28
Lappets, sprigs, &c., 10 yards	„	198	40	144	56
Maldapollams, white, 36 in. 40 yards ..	„	300	60	216	84
Tangibs, ⅞ 20 yards	„	100	20	72	28
Tangibs, ⅝ do.	„	135	30	108	27
Printed Calicoes, 1 & 2 colors, ⅞ 28 yards, and ⅞ 24 yards	„	176	20@60=40	144	32
Printed Calicoes, 3, 4, & 5 colors ..	„	285	40@80=60	216	69
Zebra Shawls, blue and white, blue and orange, and green and orange stripes	„	95	16	60	35
Zebra Shawls, Fermaish	„	150	25	90	60
Velveteens, ½ ell	yard	15⅙	3⅓	12⅔	3
Merinos, dyed	piece	1,080	180	648	432
Merinos, printed	„	1,260	280	1,008	252
Florence Silks, Rasi and Lustrin ..	piko	43	11	39⅙	3⅚
Pepper, black	oke	19	4½	16⅕	3⅓
Sal Ammoniac . .	„	30	6¾	24⅓	5⅔
Tin, in bars	cantar	2,000	506	1,809	191
Tin Plates	2 boxes	1,260	330	1,188	72

N.B.—Cotton Twist ought to be classed under its different assortments, an average duty being a very unfair one on this article.

Prints.—The division made in the Tariff into two kinds is very insufficient. There are prints of 1 and 2 colors worth only Ps. 20, and others worth Ps. 60. Turkey-red Prints are only of one color, and sell at Ps. 90. So, also, 3 and 4, &c., coloured Prints, differ in value as much as Ps. 30 or Ps. 60, per piece. We would therefore suggest that Prints should be left at an *ad valorem* duty.

Where duty is payable *ad valorem*, the merchant should have the option of paying it in kind, in case of dispute as to the value.

Inclosure 8 in No. 19.

Messrs. Roquerbe and Co. to Mr. Consul Moore.

M. le Consul, *Beyrout, le 28 Juillet*, 1846.

D'APRES votre circulaire qui nous a été communiquée, nous voyons que vous désirez avoir notre opinion sur les inconvéniens du Tarif de Douane actuel.

Tout en nous référant à nos derniers rapports nous vous dirons que tant que l'Article 111 de la Convention existera, le commerce intérieur sera toujours dangereux, puisque nous tomberons toujours dans la catégorie des Rayas.

En outre l'exportation des produits de la Syrie est surchargée d'un Tarif trop fort pour permettre un échange actif avec les autres pays, et si on n'y porte remède les transactions iront de jour en jour en diminuant; car un pays qui est obligé de payer en argent a bientôt fini.

Du reste tant que le Tarif ne reposera pas sur des bases égales pour toutes les nations, les intérêts Anglais seront toujours en souffrance.

Agréez, &c.,
(Signé) CONSTANT ROQUERBE & CO.

No. 20.

Mr. Consul Werry to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, July 29*, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the following documents, in conformity with the instructions received from Sir Stratford Canning, conveyed to me in his circular under date of the 8th June, relating to amendments recommended in the revision of the Tariff of 1839, with suggestions for improvement.

Copy of Messrs W. and R. Black and Co.'s letter to me, dated 29th June 1846.

Copy of Messrs. G. H. Gibb and Co.'s idem, dated 1st July 1846.

Copy of my despatch to Sir Stratford Canning, No. 9 of 4th July.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) N. W. WERRY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

Messrs. Black and Co. to Mr. Consul Werry.

Sir, *Aleppo, June 29*, 1846.

WE have the honour to acknowledge your circular to the British merchants here, containing an extract from a circular from his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, dated Constantinople 8th June, 1846, requesting "statements in detail respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1838 may require amendment."

In reply we beg to refer you to a report of the merchants here, dated 24th July, 1843, to which we appended our signature. As therein stated we assented to the opinion that the Tariff of 1838 had proved beneficial, than otherwise, to the British import trade with this country. The mal-administration of the custom-house here not unfrequently gives rise to disputes and abuses; but these have generally been rectified at the expense of some trouble and loss of time. When the Tariff of 1838 was constructed the exchange on England ruled from 130 to 135 piastres per pound sterling, and the value of imports in piastres correspondingly. In the latter part of 1843 the Turkish Government reformed its currency, thereby reducing the current value of coins about 20 per cent., and the exchange on England to 110 piastres per pound sterling. The currency value of imports and exports fell correspondingly, but the customs duties have continued to be levied at Tariff rates, and made payable at

the new rates of currency. Owing to this and the general reduction in the cost and quality of British imports, the Tariff duties now levied greatly exceed the *ad valorem* rate they were intended to represent. The following table of a few of the chief British imports here will afford an illustration of what we state:—

Articles.	Tariff Duty at three per cent.	Current Cash Value here.	Three per cent. duty on the Current Value.	Excess of the Tariff Rates of three per cent.
Grey Calicoes, all qualities ..	73 asp. per oke	5½ ps. per lb.	55 asp. per oke.	18 asp. per oke.
Gold end Shirtings, 40 yards	300 „ piece	60–65 ps. per piece	230 „ „	70 asp. per pce.
Bleached Long Cloth, 38½ „	234 „ „	52–55 „ „	191 „ „	36 „ „
6-4th White Tangibs, 20 „	135 „ „	23–30 „ „	108 „ „	27 „ „
9-8th ditto 20 „	100 „ „	25–26 „ „	90 „ „	10 „ „
9-8th ditto 20 inches.	100 „ „	20–22 „ „	78 „ „	22 „ „
7-8th blue & white stripe 33 yards	95 „ „	16–17 „ „	60 „ „	35 „ „
7-8th blue and orange ditto „				
7-8th Prints, 1 & 2 colors 28 „	176 „ „	40–45 „ „	160 „ „	16 „ „
7-8th do. 3 & 5 do. „ „	285 „ „	55–60 „ „	216 „ „	69 „ „
6-4th Common white Lappets 10 do.	100 „ „	14–20 „ „	72 „ „	28 „ „
6-4th White Twills, 24 yards	100 „ „	22–25 „ „	126 „ „	54 „ „

From the preceding it is evident that owing to the alteration effected in the intrinsic value of the Turkish currency, which in an equal ratio affects the value of merchandise, in piastres, from the inferior quality of British fabrics now imported into Syria, and consequently their relatively lower price, and from the reduced cost of the articles in the countries where they are produced, by which they can be furnished to the consumer here at a much lower rate, the duties now exacted are far above what was contemplated in forming the Tariff, and the whole import as well as export scale of duties requires to be remodelled, on the basis of the current value of the articles in this country.

As regards exports or produce purchased here for exportation, we have still to complain of our disadvantageous position, as compared with Russian merchants. From us the Turkish Government exacts 9 and 3, equal to 12 per cent. duty; the Russian merchant pays only 3 per cent., or a tarifled duty representing that rate; as an instance we may state that last year we were permitted as a favour to export sheep's wool purchased here, on payment of a duty of 40 piastres per 180 okes; Russian merchants at the same time bought and exported the same quality of wool, and paid only 18 piastres per 180 okes, as a right. The difference in the rates of duty yields a profit; thus competition is out of our power, and our general interests are very materially prejudiced thereby.

The same applies to almost every description of exports, galls excepted, which have hitherto come from the interior and been sold here duty paid.

The grievance could be easily remedied by putting in force in Syria the same system as we believe to be now applied to Turkey, namely, the "9 per cent. in lieu of all interior duties," to be exacted from the grower or producer, and the purchaser held liable for only the 3 per cent. export duty. In this way the Russian merchant could have little or no advantage over us, and the Turkish Government could not lose by its adoption.

We remain, &c.,
(Signed) WM. & ROBT. BLACK & Co.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Messrs. Gibb and Co. to Mr. Consul Werry.

Sir, *Aleppo, July* 1, 1846.

IN reply to your communication of 24th ultimo, with extract of a circular from his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, relative to those points on which the Tariff of 1838 might require amendment, we beg to refer you to the report of the British merchants here, dated 24th July, 1843; on which, while we assented to the opinion that the Tariff had proved beneficial to the British commerce with this country, we pointed out the advantages the Russian merchant had over us in carrying on the trade.

The only other point in which we think the Tariff requires amendment, is such a revisal of the rates as would bring them again to what they were originally intended to represent, namely, an equivalent for an *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. on imports, and 12 per cent. on exports, the reduction in the exchanges, the difference in the quality and value of goods since the Tariff was framed, having completely changed in this respect.

We have, &c.,
(Signed) G. H. GIBB & Co.

Inclosure 3 in No. 20.

Mr. Consul Werry to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir, *Aleppo, July* 4, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, conformable to the instructions conveyed in your Excellency's circular under date of the 8th June, the information obtained from our merchants on the subject of the amendments required in the revision of the Tariff of 1839, and suggestions for improvement relating thereto.

In the report I had the honour of transmitting to your Excellency, under date of the 3rd August, 1843, I submitted for consideration the obstacles thrown in the way of trade by the constant contention between the custom-houses both on the coast and in the interior, which are for the most part farmed, on the validity of the teskérés or reftiés; these have rather increased than diminished, and contrary to the Fourth Article of the Convention of 16th August 1838, in which it is stated that the custom of 9 and 3 per cent. on produce shall be paid on the coast, the 9 per cent. has been levied by the custom-houses in the interior, which has occasioned a continual conflict as to the right of the internal custom-houses appropriating the same; for instance the custom-house here will not accept the teskérés of the custom-houses at Bagdad, Moussul, and Diarbekir, from which places goods are not permitted to depart unless the 9 per cent. duty is paid, nor will the custom-house at Beyrout accept the teskérés of the custom-house here; the consequence is that the merchants are in constant litigation with the custom-houses, their goods detained or exposed to pay double duty, or after considerable delay can only obtain redress by application to the authorities at Constantinople. It would seem that some positive and specific order is required to be issued by the Porte to the internal custom-houses, to prevent the contentions on this subject.

With regard to the teskérés on imports, the same state of things exists as submitted in my last report; the same and greater profits have accrued to the farmers of the customs here, viz., to our present Governor Osman Pasha, and his predecessor Vagieh Pasha; by private agreement the custom duty has been levied at 4 per cent. during the last year, but this year has been reduced to 3 per cent. in lieu of 5 per cent., this measure has been adopted to avoid the farmers of the custom-house at

Beyrout conniving with the importers on the payment of a lower rate of duty, and thereby granting teskérés to the prejudice of the custom-house here; I know of no measure that can be suggested to your Excellency to remedy these infringements of the Convention, so long as good faith does not exist between the parties, unless it is by the Porte issuing strong orders to the respective custom-houses, and levying a heavy penalty on the parties convicted of similar frauds; our merchants will naturally guard their interests by compromises with the custom-houses so long as they are exposed to the rivalship of persons importing at a lower rate of duty, under the sanction of the Russian Treaty and Tariff; nor can any reform be expected from the Turkish revenue officers or authorities whose maladministration and venality is not less conspicuous than it has always been: there is another point which may be submitted to your Excellency's consideration, viz., the position in which the custom-houses in the interior are situated with the custom-house at Constantinople; it sometimes occurs that imports which have been received here and paid the 3 and 2 per cent. are required, in default of sale or want of a market, to be sent to the capital; in such instance the custom-house here refuses to grant a teskéré, on the plea that the chief custom-house at Constantinople will not recognise the same, and that both the custom-houses are farmed on such condition or understanding.

Our merchants and the trade here generally make complaints respecting a duty denominated "Badge," which is levied on the carriage of goods in different places; and although the carriers are made to pay this duty, they in consequence compensate themselves by proportionally increasing the rate of carriage, which falls on the merchants; between this place and Alexandretta two duties are levied, one at Khan Caramout, piastres 3 12 per load, and another at Beylan, 3.12; the former is taken by this Pasha and the latter by the Pasha of Adana. This duty was originally levied to guard and repair the roads; but I believe it may be safely said that for a great number of years past there is not a single guard on the road, nor have the roads, bridges, or passes, if such they may be called, ever been repaired by the Government. At Zohi on the Moussul road there is a similar duty levied, amounting to 12½ piastres per load.

I submit to your Excellency's consideration whether it may not be advisable to remove this imposition, which former amounts annually between this place and Alexandretta to about 100,000 piastres, without any benefit accruing therefrom, either to the trade or the public.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) N. W. WERRY.

No. 21.

Mr. Acting Consul Timoni to Mr. Bidwell.—(Received September 7.)

(Consular. No. 7.)

Sir, *Damascus, July* 31, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of my despatch No. 10 with its inclosures, addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy, a copy of which I have been instructed to transmit to your Office.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOSEPH TIMONI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Mr. Acting Consul Timoni to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir, *Damascus, July* 28, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's circular despatch dated June 8th, wherein it is requested that statements be furnished in detail respecting several points in which the Tariff of 1839

may require amendment, with such suggestions for improvement as I could obtain from British merchants of this district.

In obedience to your Excellency's instructions I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a statement which at my request has been presented to me by some merchants of this place, wherein all the points they deemed to need amendment in the actual Tariff are mentioned.

To that statement I have nothing to add, but the assurance of the hopes which all British subjects entertain, that the enormous disadvantages under which their trade with Great Britain labours—inasmuch as Russian subjects are so favoured as to pay 2 per cent. on imports and 9 per cent. on exports less than the English traders—should without delay cease, and that all be put on the same footing.

I shall not fail to transmit a copy of this despatch and the inclosed documents to the Foreign Office, in pursuance of your Excellency's instructions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOSEPH TIMONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

The Merchants of Damascus to Mr. Acting Consul Timoni.

Monsieur, *July* 24, 1846.

EN réponse à votre honorée missive du 1er courant, par laquelle vous nous demandez des renseignemens sur les points à l'égard desquels la Convention du 16 Août 1838 saurait être susceptible d'amendemens, et qui conséquemment peuvent avoir en général trait à la prospérité du commerce Anglais dans cette contrée, nous avons l'honneur, M. le Consul, de vous rapporter ce qui suit.

1°. Devons-nous remarquer avant tout, le grand inconvénient que la dité Convention renfermait contre les intérêts des négocians Anglais, et qui consistait dans la tolérance de la partiale faveur dont pouvaient se félicites les sujets et protégés Russes, dans les derniers ans en tout l'Empire Ture; en payant 2 pour cent sur l'importation et 9 pour cent sur l'exportation, moins que les autres nations, et en jouissant en même tems de tous les avantages de ces derniers: position favorisée, contre laquelle il n'y avait à lutter, tant était-elle onéreuse et humiliante pour les non-Russes.

Nous sommes aises d'apprendre que cet état anomal vient de cesser, et nous espérons que cela soit radicalement et pour toujours: car en cas contraire et en continuant sur ce pied les sujets Anglais se verront totalement expulsés du commerce de leur patrie par des étrangers, qui le plus souvent ne sont que des protégés et sous-protégés Russes, dont le nombre augmente de jour en jour tellement à faire craindre un envahissement général. Et cela prouve mieux que tout jusqu'à quel degré les dits adversaires sont devenus, par leur position favorisée et exceptionnelle, supérieurs aux sujets des autres nations, auxquels dans le statu quó ne resterait que la triste alternative, ou de quitter en vaincus le champ de bataille, ou de passer en réfugiés sous les ailes du tout puissant aigle Russe.

2°. Observons-nous qu'il y a aujourd'hui une différence assez sensible aux droits fixés dans le Tarif de 1838, relativement à la valeur des marchandises qui, depuis lors, n'ont fait que diminuer de prix en Syrie, de sorte que les droits ad valorem ne correspondent plus aux prix présens, mais les excèdent sensiblement; ce qui fait désirer une révision du Tarif en question, et des amendemens en conséquence; c'est-à-dire de réformer l'estimation ad valorem de ces articles dont la valeur a subi une diminution depuis la précitée époque.

3°. Serait-il à propos de régler mieux les subdivisions de certains articles; comme par exemple les indiennes, les cotons filés, les indigos, les draps, les toiles blanches et écrues, les cafés du ponant, &c., &c., qui se trouvent désignés dans l'actuel Tarif, sur une échelle trop limitée;

tandis que à cause de leurs différentes qualités, leurs valeurs varient par fois de 10 à 30 pour cent, et il n'est pas raisonnable de payer presque indistinctement les droits de douane de même sur une mauvaise qualité, comme sur une bonne et supérieure.

4°. Avait-il dernièrement ici de dissensions sur le lieu où devraient être payés les droits de douane; savoir, à l'endroit de l'achat ou à celui de l'embarcation? Nous optérions pour le premier, du moins pour le versement du droit de commutation de 9 pour cent, par le raison qu'à l'endroit où l'on achète l'article, le même vaut ordinairement moins et n'est pas encore grevé de maintes frais; ce qui facilite une estimation plus basse du même, et permet au douanier de l'endroit d'exercer souvent une certaine connivance.

Nous avons, &c.
(Signé) G. TFAEFFINGER.
G. MARCOPOLI.
JOSEPH ELIAS.

No. 22.

Mr. Consul Finn to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord, *Jerusalem, August* 26, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a report made by me to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, on the subject of British trade with Turkey and the Tariff of 1839.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. FINN.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Mr. Consul Finn to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir, *Jerusalem, August* 26, 1846.

HAVING received a circular despatch from Her Majesty's Embassy, dated June 8, instructing me to furnish statements in detail respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, with such suggestions for improvement as I might be able to obtain from British merchants within my district; also to furnish observations of my own respecting the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade with Turkey;

I have the honour to report that I have instituted inquiries on the subject among the Consular Agents of Palestine, and from their diffuse statements of grievances I gather the following unfortunate facts:—

1. That on all the sea-coast of Palestine there is but one English subject (except the Consular Agent at Saïda, who is a Maltese) engaged in commerce, and he is an Ionian named Mazzinghi, who has one house at Caïffa and another at Acre.

2. That of these Consular Agents only the one above mentioned is even a British subject.

3. That in either importation or exportation these and the other traders have no communication with England, or with other places for English goods.

4. That such trade as they have is both petty in quality and small in amount; it is also diminishing rapidly in each of those respects.

The statements therefore which I have received consist principally of wrongs suffered by rayah merchants from their local governors in their small traffic of tobacco, olive oil, cotton, and sesame, with a general expression of desire to be subjected to the requirements of that Tariff alone.

The only dissentient from this desire is the British subject Mazzinghi, who recommends the adoption of the Russian duty of 3½ per cent. *ad valorem* on all articles of Syrian produce for either importation or exportation.

The Consular Agent at Saïda, who is the only other British subject, complains that in violation of the Second Article of the Convention the Government still retains monopolies of salt, charcoal, and coffee.

The complaints of rayah merchants show most forcibly the obstacles which impede every gainful commerce in this country. These are well-known to arise from the corruption and violence of local mis-government, and require no new explanation. It is therefore to be regretted that a land with such capacity for inexhaustible agricultural produce, besides facility of intercourse with many surrounding nations, should be reduced to its present state of humiliation.

But I am convinced that with the ordinary virtues of European people, especially among the rulers here, a commercial and therefore mental and moral improvement would be speedily perceived. And the change already produced in this city by the silent habits and the requirements of English people since the establishment of the English mission to the Jews, and especially of the Episcopate, as described to me by older residents who can observe the change, is an earnest of what might be done were the port of Jaffa made more accessible by voltaic blasting, were the road restored to order between Jaffa and Jerusalem, and had we a British-born Vice-Consul at Jaffa.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. FINN.

No. 23.

Mr. Consul Kerr to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 12.) *British Consulate of Cyprus, Larnaca, July 4, 1846.*

My Lord,

IN respectful obedience to instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, I beg leave to submit to your Lordship the inclosed copy of a report which I have this day made to his Excellency respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 requires amendment, with my suggestions for its improvement, together with some observations respecting the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade in Turkey.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) NIVEN KERR,
Consul.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Mr. Consul Kerr to Sir Stratford Canning.

British Consulate of Cyprus, Larnaca, July 4, 1846.

Excellency,

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Excellency's circular despatch dated the 8th ultimo, desiring me to furnish statements in detail respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, with suggestions for improvement, and I shall not fail forthwith to transmit to the Foreign Office a copy of this despatch, in obedience to your Excellency's instructions.

I beg to inclose herewith a list of the duties which would be payable on the articles of exportation from Cyprus, under our existing Tariff, provided they had been rated at their respective market prices,

It will be seen thereby what serious injury our commerce now suffers, and the heavy duty with which it is surcharged, owing to the rates established in 1839.

I merely illustrate this assertion by referring your Excellency to my despatch on this same subject, No. 13, dated 31st December, in which it is stated that olive oil now pays 13½, colocynth 15, cotton and wool 16½, printed calicoes 25, common red wine 42, and Commanderia wine 72 per cent., instead of 12 per cent. as stipulated in the Commercial Convention, begging that your Excellency will be kindly pleased to direct that steps may be taken to deliver our commerce from these heavy burthens through the medium of our new Tariff.

I beg respectfully to express to your Excellency my strong conviction that our trade in Cyprus, and throughout the Levant in general, must continue in a comparatively unfavourable position until the First Article of our Commercial Treaty of 1838 is brought to bear with all its force.

The idea of subdividing the 12 per cent. export duty, leaving 9 per cent. thereof chargeable to the grower, and 3 per cent. to the British merchant on the shipment of his purchases, may be just in theory, but it is illusive in practice.

Should a British subject desire to clear for exportation at the custom-house 1000 kintals of carubs, the customer demands of him 12 per cent., making the duty for which he is liable amount to 1650 piastres; but of a Russian clearing the same goods, only 3 per cent. is claimed, making 412½ piastres, one quarter of the amount which the Englishman is compelled to pay.

We are however informed in the latter case, that the rates of the Russian Tariff are assimilated to those adopted by the English, French, and Austrians, and that the custom-house has merely to apply to the grower to encash the other three-quarters, and that that is the same thing.

The Russian however is in no way compelled to declare the name of his seller; but let us suppose he declares him to be a French or Spanish subject, the custom-house might claim of either party 1237½ piastres as a balance due to it on goods which had been sold without any idea of their being intended for exportation. The custom-house might then fall back on another seller, and then a new question arises as to whether it is obligatory to indicate him, or even the goods may have been previously purchased in small lots of various sellers, so that it might be impossible to declare them.

I believe it is universally admitted that our Commercial Convention of 1838, if it weighed impartially on all nations, would not only be a great advantage to European commerce, but a still greater to Turkey; the abolition of monopolies in the Levant has invigorated trade, and begins to animate agriculture.

If the Porte owed no greater debt of obligation to Great Britain than this, it would be difficult indeed for it to repay her. The Porte ought to have perceived that the friendly counsels which when offered were only repugnantly accepted, have already brought forth their good fruits; it ought now therefore to oppose no difficulty to placing all the European Powers, and among them England, on a footing of perfect commercial equality, and leaving the development of the rich elements of prosperity which lie hidden and unexplored in its provinces, to the most unrestricted competition.

Should the Turkish Government now pursue an opposite line of policy it will result that all European merchants will seek (as many have already done), the Russian protection, or by the payment of a commission of 1 or 2 per cent. they will secure to their operations the safeguard of Russia, so that all the Levant trade will become tributary to that Power.

In order therefore to insure our being placed on the same footing as Russia, it is absolutely necessary that an Article of our new Convention should clearly and without any restriction, establish that the British merchant shall have in future the right of claiming and availing himself, *de facto*, of all the privileges, favours, or facilities, that have, or at any future period may be granted to the most favoured nation.

If at the present day well-organised Governments admit the necessity of reducing their Tariffs with a view of ameliorating their commerce, how much more is such a policy needful in Turkey, where agriculture ought to be encouraged, and where commerce is but in its infancy?

When England suggested to the Porte the abolition of monopolies the latter immediately sought a compensation, with a view to which the 9 per cent. duty was fixed, in addition to the duty of 3 per cent. which previously existed.

Would it not be possible at this day, when the Divan is enlightened by more experience, to advise it entirely to renounce the 9 per cent., which sustains an organized system of contraband, which demoralizes the subaltern agents, which produces no real increase to the finances, and which paralyzes the agriculturist?

I beg to submit to your Excellency, as a practical argument, that during the past year, 1845, only a fifth part of the silk exported from Cyprus was cleared at the custom-house, and we are well aware that on the coasts of Syria an equally extensive system of smuggling is carried on.

A simple export duty of 3 per cent., which no one would attempt to elude, because smuggling would be more expensive, would produce a steady and flourishing revenue to the Turkish treasury; the agricultural interest and trade in general would thereby receive an immense impetus, and the Sultan would have the satisfaction of having by these means increased the welfare of his subjects.

I am well aware that it would be difficult to convince the Turkish Government of the wisdom of following out a principle which begins by a temporary sacrifice of revenue; but when we see the first statesmen of the age, after many years' experience, proclaim these principles, Great Britain could with great confidence invite others to follow her steps, because she proves to them by her own example the sincerity of her counsels.

Having been desired by your Excellency to submit my opinions relative to our existing Tariff with the Porte, I should consider that I had not performed my duty had I not unreservedly laid before your Excellency my humble views on the subject; and I trust that the circumstance of my having been several years engaged in the Turkey trade may probably plead my excuse for entering so fully into details.

I flatter myself, however, that if I have involuntarily enlarged on the question on which your Excellency has been pleased to order me to express my opinion, your Excellency will kindly place a favourable construction on my intentions.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) NIVEN KERR,
Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Articles of Exportation from the Island of Cyprus, with the Duty of 9 per cent. and 3 per cent. calculated on their Average Market Price.

		Aspers.	Aspers.
Brandy or Raeci	oke	15	5
Carubs	quintal	148½	49½
Colocynth	oke	102	34
Cotton Wool	quintal	1,620	540
Copper, old	oke	94½	31½
Grain—Wheat	kilo	121½	40½
Barley	„	54	18
Printed Calicoes, &c.	*ad valorem*	9%	3%
Nuts, hazel	quintal	594	198
Oil of Olives	„	1,512	504
Skins—Sheep	each	27	9
Lamb	„	21	7
Kid	„	9	3
Hare	„	9	3
Sheep, dyed	„	108	36
Silk	oke	1,080	360
Tobacco	„	39	13
Wine—Commanderia	„	9	3
Common red	„	4½	1½
Wool	quintal	1,350	454

All other articles, the growth of Cyprus, which are contained in the Tariff of 1839, but which have not been noted in the above table, need no alteration.

(Signed) NIVEN KERR,
Consul.

Cyprus, July 4, 1846.

No. 24.

Mr. Consul Ongley to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Canea in Crete, August* 19, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit inclosed copy of a statement sent by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to the present Tariff rates of duties on goods imported into and exported from Turkey, as well as remarks on the present commercial relations.

With respect to imports, I have confined myself to a few articles which are not generally imported into other parts of the empire.

In the exports a very great difference will be seen between the proposed rate and present rate of duty, particularly on oil, soap, and wool.

Since I forwarded this statement I have seen a translation of the new Russian Commercial Treaty; by the Sixth Article of it, the retail trade, as well as the manufacturing trade (under which term is included, I apprehend, in the Turkish original word, almost every sort of manual art and labour) is prohibited to Russian subjects.

Were such a clause inserted in our Treaty, it would have the effect of throwing out of employment an immense number of Ionians and Maltese.

In this island, almost the whole of the retail trade in imports is in the hands of foreigners, and of the artisans, the greatest part are Ionians, Hellenes, or Maltese.

Were these persons prohibited from exercising their calling, how would the Turks replace them? The want of population in this island, as well as in other parts of Turkey, is abundantly evident, and it would be very impolitic for the Sublime Porte to adopt a measure which it may consider to be a concession on the part of Russia, but which is in reality, detrimental to the real interest of Turkey.

The only advantage which could accrue to Turkey from prohibiting foreigners to engage in the retail trade, or to exercise any art or engage in any manufacture would be, that many Hellenes might become Ottoman subjects for the purpose of being allowed to exercise their calling.

By the Tenth Article the importation of cannon, powder, &c. is prohibited, whilst at the same time it is provided that persons may sell shot and powder in proportion; but how are they to sell the powder if they are not allowed to import it?

I think it would be more suitable to place powder on the same footing that cannon are to be placed by this Article, that is, that it shall be warehoused in the Government stores, and sold only in small quantities with the knowledge of the local authorities.

By the first section of the Eleventh Article, fishing and the sale of fish is reserved to Turkish subjects; this will have the effect of rendering the article very dear in the island, and will thus deprive the poorer inhabitants of a great luxury.

Neapolitans, Ionians, and Maltese catch the greatest part of the fish consumed here.

The third section of the same Article subjects the sale of alum to certain restrictions. I am quite at a loss to understand why the Turkish authorities should wish to interfere with the sale of this article so essential in dyeing. The fourth section contains an admission that the importation of salt is prohibited; a measure, of which most Europeans in Turkey have hitherto, I imagine, been ignorant.

It also contains a provision to send Turkish salt from one district to another,—a most prejudicial measure for this island, which imports largely from Barbary, as this article is absolutely necessary for making soap.

The 5th and 7th sections are also objectionable.

In short, I consider the tenor of this 11th Article prejudicial to trade and to the real interest of Turkey, suffering as it does from the want of population to cultivate its extensive plains.

To facilitate a reference to the Articles of the Russian Treaty to which I allude, I beg to inclose a French translation of it.

Trusting that your Lordship will excuse the liberty I have taken in making these remarks,

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. S. ONGLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

List of Articles frequently imported into Crete, of which the present Tariff Rates should be changed.

Articles.	Average Value in Piastres.	Proposed Duty in Aspers.	Present Duty in Aspers.
Alkali	.. ..	3 per cent. *ad val.*	not enumerated
Coffee, ordinary	5½ per oke	19 5/8	28
Cotton Twist, ordinary Nos.	14 "	50 4/5	63
Herrings, red	110 per barrel	396	not enumerated
Maccaroni, Malta	2 per oke	7 7/10	8 to 9
Sardelle of Sicily	60 per barrel	216	not enumerated

Salt Fish.—This term includes fish of such different values, that the Tariff rate of 360 aspers is not at all suitable. It should be left at 3 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Sardelles and red herrings would come under this article; and the present rate would be 4½ per cent. on the former article, and about 6 per on the latter article.

List of Articles of Export from Crete, of which the present Tariff Rates should be changed.

Articles.	Average price in Piastres.	Proposed Duty in Aspers.		Present Duty in Aspers.	
		Nine per cent.	Three per cent.	Nine per cent.	Three per cent.
Almonds, shelled ..	5½ per oke	59 7/10	19 7/10	not enumerated	
Brandy or Raccl ..	110 paras per oke	39 3/5	9 9/10	37½	12½
Lemons	30 per 1000	324	108	not enumerated	
Olive Oil	150 per kintal	1620	540	1686	612
Oranges .. .	80 per 1000	864	288	not enumerated	
Raisins, black	30 per kintal	324	108	367	122
Silk	130 per oke	1404	468	2160	720
Soap	125 per kintal	1350	450	1836	612
Skins, Lamb	75 paras each	20¼	6 3/4	27	9
Valonea	50 per kintal	540	180	720	240
Wool	110 paras per oke	1188	396	2214	738
Wine	40 paras per oke	10 4/5	3 3/5	15½	5½

Remarks.

1st. Difficulties frequently arise with respect to the value of those goods which pay *ad valorem*, and the custom-house authorities pretend that the selling price is the value on which the duty is to be calculated.

This, so far as regards importations, is unjust. It would be advisable to come to an understanding that the value on which the duty is to be calculated is to be the selling market price, less 10 or 15 per cent., or the duty to be paid in kind. It would not be advisable to take the invoice cost as a basis, because many parties would present fictitious invoices.

2nd. No provision exists in the Treaty, relative to the duties on Turkish produce imported into Turkey from a British possession. We have imported from Malta into this island the produce of Egypt and the Barbary States.

When the produce is exported from this island to Turkey, the duty exacted is the same as if the exportation were made to Europe, except that 10 per cent. on the amount of duty is also exacted under the name of "Kalemyié" (office money); and a certificate of the duties having been paid is given to the shipper, so as to protect him from the exaction of any other duty at the port of discharge; but no certificate is given, nor "Kalemyié" exacted, if the goods be shipped for Europe.

If Turkish produce arrive here, and the importer be not provided with the above-mentioned certificate, the 9 and 3 per cent. duties, plus 13 per cent. on their amount, is exacted.

A party shipping from Barbary to Malta a cargo of barilla, with the intention of selling it at Malta, does not provide himself with a certificate of the duties having been paid in Barbary. This may be sold at Malta, to a party who ships it to this island.

On its arrival here, it is recognised as Turkish produce; and being unprovided with a certificate of the duties having been paid in Barbary, 12 per cent. and the additional 10 per cent. on the amount of the duty is exacted here; whereas the shipper at Malta probably supposed he would have to pay only 5 per cent. as an importation direct from a British possession, thus making a difference of more than 7 per cent. in his calculations.

If, however, the importer were provided with a certificate of the duties having been paid in Barbary, no duties whatsoever would be exacted here, unless the goods imported were the produce of the Kingdom of Tunis.

I would suggest that Turkish produce imported through a British possession, if provided with a certificate that the duties had been duly levied at the original place of export, should pay no duty on entering Turkey again, but if provided with no such certificate, should pay 3 and 2 per cent. at the port of discharge, as if it were of British production.

3rd. In the new Russian Commercial Treaty with the Porte, if I am rightly informed, some monopolies are consented to; and it is also stipulated that Russian subjects shall not have the right of engaging in manufactures in Turkey, it would in my opinion not be advisable to admit such a clause in our Treaty.

Many manufactures may be carried on or perfected by British capital and experience to the advantage of Turkey, without any detriment to British trade.

The Turkish Governors are in general disposed to impose taxes on every article with the direct sanction of the central Government, and thus discourage individuals from carrying on manufacturing adventures, as they dare not make representations to the Porte, whereas if Europeans be allowed to manufacture they will oppose any arbitrary exaction of the Local Governors, and be thus a salutary check on them without any detriment to the Porte, and were any impolitic restriction to be placed on their industry by the Central Government, they would endeavour to obtain its revocation by pointing out its injurious tendency, whereas native manufacturers would either be unable or afraid to do it.

I may mention silk-winding, soap-making, and converting wheat into flour by steam, as some of the adventures in which British capital are or might be embarked.

4th. The present high rate of duties on exports has had the effect of throwing a great part of the trade into the hands of those parties who make no difficulty of defrauding the revenue, I would venture to suggest that the Porte be recommended to increase the penalty now exacted from those detected in smuggling transactions.

At present the only penalty is the payment of double duty; whereas were it increased to forfeiture of the article seized, the risk would be too great in proportion to the duty, and it may reasonably be supposed that smuggling would then in a great measure decrease.

The master of the vessel when assisting in the smuggling ought also to be subjected to a fine.

Till some steps are taken in this respect, British merchants cannot compete with foreigners.

The Pasha here by consenting to put a low valuation on silk, and by giving to the custom-house officers whatever double duty might be exacted on the silk they might seize, has very greatly increased the quantity entered at the custom-house; and I feel convinced that if the fine exacted were the full value of the silk, instead of only double duty, smuggling here would almost entirely cease.

5th. It would perhaps be advisable to come to some clear understanding respecting the right of British subjects to enter into the retail trade in Turkey.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Treaty of Commerce between the Sublime Porte and Russia. Signed at Balta Liman, April 30, 1846.

CONFORMEMENT aux rapports de l'amitié parfaite qui existent entre l'Empire Ottoman et le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, toutes les dispositions relatives au négoce, aux droits de douane, aux immunités et autres affaires commerciales des négocians des deux empires, s'effectuent selon les stipulations des anciens traités; mais les deux augustes Cours, tout en maintenant et corroborant les stipulations établies par les traités précédens, étant animés du désir et pénétrées de la nécessité de conclure un nouveau traité de commerce, afin de faciliter et d'augmenter les relations commerciales de manière à les adapter aux améliorations salutaires introduites dans l'administration des affaires intérieures de la Turquie et aux convenances actuelles du commerce.

Sa Majesté le très-haut et très-puissant Souverain, Empereur et Padichah des Ottomans, a autorisé les soussignés, le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de la Sublime Porte, membre du Ministère, l'un des Mouchirs de l'Empire, Moustapha Rechid Pacha, décoré du Nichan de son poste et du Nichan de distinction affecté à sa personne, Chevalier Grand Cordon de la Légion d'Honneur de France, de l'Aigle Rouge de Prusse, de Charles III. et d'Isabelle la Catholique d'Espagne, de Léopold de Belgique, du Lion Néerlandais des Pays-Bas, et de l'Épée de Suède, et l'un des hauts fonctionnaires de l'Empire, Kihaya de la Sultane Mère, Directeur de l'Hôtel de la Monnaie, régissant en même temps la douane de Constantinople, Méhémet Tahyr Bey, décoré du Nichan affecté au rang supérieur auquel il est élevé et d'un Nichan de distinction pour sa personne; par les pleins pouvoirs qui leur ont été délivrés par Sa Hautesse à conclure ledit Traité sur les bases arrêtées de part et d'autre; et Sa Majesté Impériale, le très-puissant Souverain Empereur et Padichah de toutes les Russies, a autorisé son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire près la Sublime Porte Ottomane, le Conseiller d'État Actuel Vladimir Titow, Chevalier Grand Cordon de l'Ordre de Ste. Anne de la 1re classe et de St. Stanislas de la 1re classe, décoré du Nichan Iftihar de Sa Majesté le Sultan et de l'Ordre Persan du Lion et du Soleil, de négocier et de régler cette question, en le munissant à cet effet de pleins pouvoirs signés et revêtus du sceau impérial. A cet effet, après nous être concertés avec le Plénipotentiaire susmentionné du Gouvernement Russe, nous avons réglé et statué en vingt Articles le Traité dont la teneur suit:—

ARTICLE I.

Tous les traités et stipulations qui ont existé jusqu'ici entre la Sublime Porte et la Cour de Russie, relativement aux droits, privilèges et immunités des sujets et bâtimens Russes en Turquie, et notamment le Traité de Commerce du 10 Juin, 1783, et l'Article VII du Traité d'Andrinople, sont confirmés dans toute leur force et valeur à l'exception de ce qui est expressément aboli ou modifié par la présente Convention. La Sublime Porte s'engage à les faire observer inviolablement par toutes les autorités militaires de terre et de mer et autres fonctionnaires. Elle promet et assure en outre aux sujets et bâtimens Russes la pleine et entière jouissance de tout droit, bénéfice, ou avantage, qui est ou serait accordé dorénavant dans ses Etats aux nations étrangères les plus favorisées.

ARTICLE II.

Ainsi qu'il a été stipulé par les Traités précédens, le droit de douane restera invariablement fixé à trois pour cent pour le commerce extérieur, et sera prélevé comme par le passé tant sur les produits Russes ou étrangers importés en Turquie, que sur les produits Turcs exportés des Etats Ottomans par les négocians Russes, par leurs délégués ou par leurs ayant-cause.

ARTICLE III.

Tout négociant et sujet Russe est libre d'acheter en personne ou par l'intermédiaire de ses ayant-cause les articles et objets provenant du sol ou de l'industrie de la Turquie, soit pour les exporter, soit pour en faire le commerce dans l'intérieur des Etats Ottomans.

Les sujets Russes ou leurs hommes d'affaires auront le droit de transporter les dits produits ou marchandises à toute échelle de l'Empire Ottoman, sauf les restrictions indiquées plus bas dans les Article XI et XII, sans que les dites marchandises soient passibles, ni pour l'acheteur ni pour le vendeur, d'aucune charge ou droit de Teskéré, Mansourié, Bidaat, Ihtissab, et autres semblables; mais la Cour de Russie n'entend pas entraver le Gouvernement Ottoman par cet Article ou par quelque autre de la présente Convention, dans l'exercice de ses droits de souveraineté dans sa propre administration intérieure, en tant que ces droits ne dérogent point aux priviléges accordés aux sujets Russes et à leurs propriétés, soit par les anciens Traités ou par la présente Convention, et pourvu que les impôts dont sont frappés les sujets Ottomans, conformément à ces mêmes droits de souveraineté, ne portent une atteinte manifeste, sous quelque rapport que ce soit à la présente Convention, ou qu'ils n'imposent directement de nouveaux droits sur le commerce des sujets Russes. La Cour de Russie ne prétend rien stipuler au-delà du sens naturel et véritable des termes employés dans le présent Acte. En compensation de tous les droits intérieurs ainsi supprimés, la Cour de Russie à la suite d'un accord spécial entre les deux Gouvernemens, consent à ce que le négociant Russe paye à l'arrivée de la marchandise à l'échelle, un droit d'entrée (*amédié*) fixe et supplémentaire de neuf pour cent indépendamment du trois pour cent de droit de sortie (*reftié*) qu'il devra payer comme autrefois à l'embarquement de la marchandise pour l'exportation. Toute somme ou valeur perçue au-delà du neuf pour cent précité, sous telle dénomination ou sous tel prétexte que ce soit, directement ou indirectement pour le compte du fisc ou des préposés, sera considerée comme une infraction au présent Traité, et la Sublime Porte s'engage sur la représentation qui en sera faite par la Légation Impériale, de la faire restituer sans délai à l'acheteur ou au vendeur dont elle aurait été perçue, de punir sévèrement les fonctionnaires de quelque rang qu'ils soient qui se seraient permis une pareille infraction, et d'indemniser le négociant Russe des pertes et vexations qu'il prouverait en être résultées pour lui. Tout objet qui serait acheté à l'échelle d'embarquement ou au lieu de sortie et qui aurait déjà payé le neuf pour cent du droit d'entrée ne sera plus soumis qu'au paiement du seul droit primitif de trois pour cent pour l'exportation.

ARTICLE IV.

Tout objet produit du sol ou de l'industrie de la Russie ou des pays étrangers, qui appartiendrait à des sujets Russes, sera admis comme par le passé dans toutes les parties de l'Empire Ottoman, moyennant le paiement de 3 pour cent de droit d'importation. En remplacement de tout droit et redevances intérieures qui ont pesé sur les dits objets, le négociant Russe ou son homme d'affaires, soit qu'il les vende au lieu d'arrivée, ou qu'il les expédie dans l'intérieur de l'empire pour les vendre, payera à l'avenir un droit supplémentaire de 2 pour cent. Mais comme le mode de la perception de l'ancien droit de 3 pour cent à part, lors de l'arrivée des marchandises à l'échelle et du droit additionnel de 2 pour cent à part au moment de la vente, occasionne des embarras à l'Administration de la Douane, on est convenu que dans le but de les éviter, l'ancien droit de 3 pour cent et l'additionnel de 2 pour cent, c'est-à-dire en tout 5 pour cent de droit d'entrée et de droit additionnel, seront perçus à la fois, et seront inscrits séparément dans les registres de la douane, et après de ménager en même temps les intérêts des négocians, il pourra leur être accordé, moyennant garantis, de ne payer le dit droit additionnel de 2 pour cent que dans le terme d'une année à compter de la date où il aura été inscrit dans le livre de la douane. Si ensuite ces mêmes marchandises sont revendues à l'intérieur ou à l'extérieur, il ne sera plus exigé aucune espèce de droit ni du vendeur ni de l'acheteur sujet Ottoman ou étranger, ni de celui qui les ayant achetés voudra les expédier au-dehors. De même, si un sujet Russe ou son délégué achetait en Turquie des objets de provenances étrangères qui aurait acquitté à leur entrée le 3 pour cent de droit d'importation, il aura la faculté d'en trafiquer en Turquie, comme aussi de les exporter, si bon lui semble, sans payer aucune autre redevance, excepté le 2 pour cent de droit supplémentaire d'après le Tarif.

Les articles d'importation qui, destinés à être envoyés d'un port à l'autre, auront payé le droit de 3 pour cent et l'additionnel de 2 pour cent à la fois dans le premier port, pourront être envoyés dans un autre, franc de tout droit. Dans le cas où ces marchandises ne seraient pas vendues dans les Etats Ottomans, et que, sans qu'elles aient passé en d'autres mains, on aurait besoin de les envoyer à l'étranger, alors le droit additionnel de 2 pour cent qui aura été acquitté sera seul restitué au propriétaire de la marchandise.

ARTICLE V.

Lorsque les sujets Russes ou leurs hommes d'affaires auront acheté des objets du produit de la Turquie et voudront les revendre dans le lieu où ils se trouvent, ou dans d'autres parties de l'Empire Ottoman, ils payeront lors de l'achat et de la vente, les droits établis pour les sujets les plus privilégiés de l'Empire Ottoman qui s'occupent du commerce intérieur sans qu'il soit rien demandé au-delà, et aucune vexation ne sera faite aux sujets Russes par suite de ce commerce intérieur dont l'exercice ne pourra porter atteinte aux dispositions de l'Article VI qui suit.

ARTICLE VI.

En vertu du principe de la liberté du commerce consacré par les traités précédens, les négocians Russes après avoir payé sur les marchandises, objets et denrées qu'ils auraient importés de Russie ou de l'étranger, les droits établis, auront la faculté de les vendre librement en Turquie, tant en gros et en ballot qu'en fractions détachées dans leurs magasins ou autres lieux affectés à l'exercice de leur commerce, à condition toutefois de n'en pas faire un même commerce à l'instar des Esnafs avec yédik ou sans yédik, sujets de la Sublime Porte, et sauf les restrictions stipulées dans les Articles X et XI de la présente Convention. Egalement les négocians et sujets Russes trafiqueront en gros, en ballots, et en fractions détachées des produits du sol et de l'industrie qu'ils auront achetés dans les Etats Ottomans, aux mêmes conditions que ci-dessus. L'exercice des métiers dans les Etats Ottomans étant affecté aux sujets de la Sublime Porte, les sujets Russes ne pourront pas non plus tenir des ateliers pour exercer ces métiers.

ARTICLE VII.

La Sublime Porte confirme dans toute sa plénitude la liberté de transit accordée par les Traités précédens aux marchandises et aux bâtimens de commerce Russes qui traversent les Détroits de Constantinople et des Dardanelles pour se diriger de la Mer Noire dans la Mer Blanche, et *vice versâ*. Mais dans le cas où il serait nécessaire que les objets arrivés ainsi pour être vendus ailleurs, fussent débarqués à terre et mis en dépôt pour un terme limité, en attendant la continuation de leur trajet sur les mêmes ou sur d'autres navires de commerce, la Douane devra être absolument informée, afin que les marchandises soient déposées cachetées dans les magasins de la Douane, ou s'il ne s'y trouvait pas de place, dans un autre local convenable du site et sous le cachet de la Douane, de manière à être rendues dans le même état au propriétaire par l'entremise de l'autorité douanière au moment où elles devront être ré-expédiées. A cet effet, il ne sera demandé aucun droit ni redevance. Les articles qui seront importés en Turquie et que l'importateur n'aura point vendu dans les Etats Ottomans et expédiera dans d'autres pays, ne payeront que le 3 pour cent d'importation sans être passibles d'aucun droit d'exportation ou d'autre redevance quelconque.

ARTICLE VIII.

Aucun monopole ne subsistera plus dans les Etats Ottomans, ni sur les produits de l'agriculture, ni sur d'autres productions quelconques, sauf les restrictions à cette règle générale mentionnées et précitées par l'Art. X et XI de la présente Convention. Sous cette même réserve, la Sublime Porte renonce aussi à l'usage des permis ou teskérés demandés aux autorités locales pour acheter les marchandises ou les transporter d'un lieu à un autre. Toute tentative qui serait faite par une autorité quelconque pour forcer les sujets Russes à se pourvoir de semblables permis ou teskérés, ou à payer une redevance quelconque pour cette permission, sera considérée comme une infraction aux Traités, et entraînera les conséquences prévues par l'Article III de la présente Convention.

ARTICLE IX.

Dans le cas où une disette, ou quelque autre nécessité absolue, obligerait la Sublime Porte à interdire l'exportation d'une marchandise ou denrée du produit de la Turquie, un terme convenable sera fixé pour la mise en vigueur de cette prohibition; et la Légation de Russie sera avertie préalablement quelle sera la marchandise prohibée et combien de temps cette prohibition devra durer, afin que cela soit publié dans les échelles requises. Il ne sera accordé à cet égard aucune exception en faveur de qui que ce soit, et si telle chose avait lieu, on en agira de même en faveur des négocians Russes.

ARTICLE X.

Les canons, la poudre, les balles, et autres projectiles destinés à l'usage des armes à feu resteront prohibés au commerce comme article de guerre, et les particuliers ne pourront vendre que de la grenaille pour la chasse, de manière à ne jamais surpasser le poids de 5 oques, et de la poudre en proportion. Si des canons étaient apportés par des navires marchands Russes dans un but de commerce, ils ne seront ni vendus, ni expédiés à l'insu des autorités. A cet effet ils seront débarqués à la douane du port où ils arriveraient. Celle-ci les fera mettre en dépôt, et lorsque d'autres bâtimens de commerce auront besoin de les acheter, la douane en vérifiera la vente et ne délivrera pas au-delà du nombre des canons convenables à l'usage de pareils navires.

ARTICLE XI.

La Cour de Russie à la suite d'un accord établi entre les deux Gouvernemens, consent à excepter de la liberté générale de commerce assurée aux sujets Russes, les articles suivans passibles de restrictions ou de redevances spéciales au profit du fisc Ottoman, à titre de droits régaliens:

1°. La pêche et la vente de poisson pour en faire un commerce, étant un trafic des Esnafs, et sous ce rapport affecté aux sujets du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan, les sujets Russes n'auront pas la permission de la faire.

2°. La pêche des sangsues sera, comme autrefois, référée à l'administration exclusive du Ministre des Finances.

3°. La vente de l'alum importé de l'extérieur ne pourra se faire si ce n'est d'après les réglemens spéciaux établis par la Sublime Porte. Mais les négocians Russes seront libres d'acheter et d'exporter l'alum produit de la Turquie, moyennant le paiement des droits établis par l'Article III de la présente Convention.

4°. Comme l'importation du sel de l'étranger dans les Etats Ottomans est défendue et que chacune des Salines située dans l'empire ayant son arrondissement spécial (*oron*) il n'est pas permis de vendre le sel de l'un dans l'arrondissement de l'autre; les négocians Russes aussi se conformeront à ce réglement établi; mais ils pourront exporter le sel produit des Etats Ottomans, en payant les droits établis, à l'instar des autres marchandises d'exportation.

5°. Le tabac à priser importé de l'étranger ne pourra être débité qu'en gros, tel qu'il arrive, sans défaire les caroltes, et sans déboucher les boîtes ou les vases dans lesquels on l'apporte. Mais la vente en détail à la balance, sera exclusivement réservée aux Esnafs. Le tabac du produit de la Turquie sera librement acheté pour l'exportation, mais il ne sera point permis aux négocians Russes de le revendre dans les Etats Ottomans.

6°. Le tabac à fumer du produit des Etats Ottomans, étant assujetti indépendamment du droit de la dîme qui sera perçu d'après l'usage, à une redevance pour la permission de le cultiver; les négocians Russes qui achèteraient ce produit pour l'exportation paieront le 9 pour cent et le 3 pour cent, en tout 12 pour cent de droit de douane selon l'Article III de la présente Convention, et seront tenus d'exhiber au moment de l'exportation, le teskéré qui constate que le vendeur a payé la dîme et la redevance ci-dessus indiquées. Mais dans le cas où ils ne seraient pas munis d'un pareil teskéré ils devraient les payer eux-mêmes en entier s'ils revendent le tabac qu'ils auront acheté dans les Etats Ottomans, comme cela constituerait un commerce intérieur, ils paieront les mêmes droits établis que les sujets les plus privilégiés de la Sublime Porte.

7°. Le débit des vins et autres boissons fortes ne sera point exercé par les sujets Russes à l'oque ou au verre ni dans les boutiques ni dans leurs magasins ou navires, embarcations et chaloupes, mais ce commerce leur sera permis en gros, par tonneaux ou dame-jeannes, sans être entravé par aucune taxe ou difficulté en dehors des traités. Si les boissons fortes qu'ils auront apportées sont du produit des Etats Ottomans, comme cela constituerait un commerce intérieur, ils paieront les mêmes droits que les sujets les plus privilégiés de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

ARTICLE XII.

La soie provenant du sol Ottoman, après avoir payé le droit de douane pour être exportée à l'étranger, ne pourra être transportée dans ce but à des échelles écartées ou dénuées de douane, mais on devra l'embarquer aux ports ou échelles spécifiés dans une liste que la Porte a remise à la Légation de Russie, liste qui ne pourra être modifiée par la suite, sans un accord préalable avec cette Légation.

ARTICLE XIII.

Les priviléges et autres conditions stipulées par le présent acte seront scrupuleusement observés à l'égard de tous les sujets et négocians Russes, qu'ils fassent le commerce en personne, ou qu'ils en chargent leurs fondés de pouvoirs, agens ou associés de quelque nation qu'ils soient. Mais la Légation de Russie veillera à ce que ses nationaux ne puissent abusivement prêter leur nom à des spéculations étrangères ou illicites, et si jamais un sujet Russe était convaincu de pareils abus, il ne manquera pas d'être réprimé par les autorités Russes, selon la gravité du cas.

ARTICLE XIV.

L'exhibition à la douane du manifeste relatif à la cargaison des bâtimens des négocians Russes aura lieu conformément au réglement qui serait arrêté de concert entre la Sublime Porte et la Mission de Russie.

ARTICLE XV.

En rendant exécutoires les conditions stipulées par la présente Convention dans toutes les possessions de la Porte Ottomane en Europe, Asie, et Afrique, la Sublime Porte s'engage à ce que dans le Pachalic d'Egypte et ses dépendances il soit fait usage, à l'égard du commerce Russe, des mêmes arrangemens et facilités de détail qui y sont établis pour le commerce des autres nations les plus privilégiées.

ARTICLE XVI.

Les deux Cours Contractantes prenant en considération que parmi les provinces qui font partie des Etats de la Sublime Porte, les Principautés de Moldavie et de Servie jouissent du privilége d'une administration distincte, sont convenues que les marchandises de provenances Russes et étrangères que les négocians Russes importeraient dans les dites provinces, paieront aux douanes de ces dernières les droits stipulés par l'Art. IV. de la présente Convention, sans en payer dans les autres échelles de la Turquie où les marchandises dont il s'agit aborderaient de passage ou seraient déposées à terre pour un temps limité, afin de poursuivre leur navigation moyennant les conditions prescrites par l'Art. VII. du présent Traité.

ARTICLE XVII.

Les droits et les dispositions stipulées par la présente Convention à l'égard des sujets et négocians Russes ne pouvant pas, d'après les lois commerciales observées en Russie, être entièrement appliquées dans les Etats Russes envers les sujets et négocians de l'Empire Ottoman, c'est à dire une pleine réciprocité à cet égard ne pouvant pas avoir lieu, les sujets et les négocians de la Sublime Porte et les navires de commerce, ainsi que les produits des Etats Ottomans, seront traités dans les Etats Russes conformément aux dispositions qui sont adoptées envers les sujets, les négocians, les navires et les produits des Puissances étrangères les plus favorisées.

ARTICLE XVIII.

La durée de la présente Convention Commercia.e est fixée à dix ans depuis la date de sa signature, c'est-à-dire jusqu'au mois d'Avril 1856. Six mois avant l'expiration de ce terme, les deux Cours auront à se prévenir mutuellement si leur intention est de s'en tenir ultérieurement aux dispositions du présent acte, ou de s'entendre sur quelques modifications à y apporter pour la meilleure facilité des relations commerciales qu'elles tiennent à cœur de favoriser et de protéger entre les nationaux respectifs.

ARTICLE XIX.

Bien que le Tarif qui règle aujourd'hui les droits à prélever sur le commerce Russe en Turquie a été stipulé pour douze années à compter du 1-13 Octobre, 1842, il est convenu que ledit tarif restera en vigueur jusqu'à l'expiration du terme de la présente Convention, et que l'un et l'autre devront être renouvelés ensemble à l'expiration de terme. Durant cet intervalle, les deux parties voulant éviter toute incertitude en ce qui concerne les droits supplémentaires à prélever sur le commerce Russe, ont arrêté que le neuf pour cent est égal au triple des sommes indiquées par le tarif actuel, et le deux pour cent aux deux tiers de ces mêmes sommes, sans préjudice des priviléges réservés aux négocians de payer le droit en nature pour les articles dont le prix n'est point fixé dans le Tarif.

ARTICLE XX.

La présente Convention sera ratifiée par les deux Gouvernemens dans les deux mois après la signature, ou plus tôt, si faire se peut, et sa mise à exécution commencera le 1-13 Juillet de l'année courante.

Le présent Traité ayant été arrêté selon la teneur des vingt Articles ci-dessus énoncés, il sera définitif aussitôt que les ratifications auront été échangées dans le terme précité, et en attendant le présent instrument a été rédigé, muni de nos signatures et de nos sceaux et échangé contre celui qui nous a été délivré par le Ministre précité Plénipotentiaire du Gouvernement Russe.

Fait à Balta Liman, le 4 *Djemazi-ul-evvel*, 1262 (18-30 Avril, 1846).

No. 25.

Mr. Consul-General Warrington to Viscount Palmerston.—(*Received September* 18.)

(Consular. No. 34.)

My Lord, *Tripoli, August* 13, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to refer your Lordship to No. 1, being a copy of despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople; and in obedience to orders I have now to send Nos. 2 and 3, being the opinion of the traders to Tripoli and Bengazi as to the operation of the Commercial Convention of 1839.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HANMER WARRINGTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Sir Stratford Canning to Mr. Consul-General Warrington.

Sir, *Constantinople, June* 8, 1846.

UNDER the instructions of Her Majesty's Government I have to request that you will furnish me with statements in detail respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, with such suggestions for improvement as you may be able to obtain from British merchants within your district.

I have also to direct you to furnish any further observations which you may have to offer at the present time respecting the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade with Turkey.

You will be careful to transmit simultaneously to the Foreign Office copies of the communications which you address to me in pursuance of this instruction.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

The Merchants of Tripoli to Mr. Consul-General Warrington.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Tripoli, Barbary, July* 30, 1846.

THE undersigned merchants, British subjects, having by previous applications informed you of the abuses and aggravations of this custom-house, do now hear with pleasure that Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has taken great interest for the suppression of the same; and therefore they beg you will be pleased to submit to his Excellency at Constantinople this their present information, which contains a résumé of what they have stated before.

Exportations.

1. Yellow skins (called bazanés), hides, goat and sheep-skins, barracans, carpets, &c., which are purchased by the British merchants into the town, are they to pay the duty of 3 per cent. on exportation as usual (and as it appears by a certificate from all other merchants, dated 13th January, 1845) or more, or as the officers of the custom-house pretend?

2. Gall-nuts are sold here at from 60 to 65 piastres per weiba of about 2½ cantars; pays duty 10 piastres and 32 paras, which comes to 17 or 18 per cent.

3. Red pepper is sold at 30 piastres per weiba (which weighs 20 okes), here it pays the very heavy duty of 25 per cent.; if the regular duty of 12 per cent. were to be paid, we only ought to pay 3 piastres per weiba.

4. Senna. The price current here is 175 piastres per cantar, conformable to the 12 per cent.; it ought to pay 21 piastres, but the custom-house here takes 25½ piastres per cantar.

5. Elephant's teeth (or ivory). Notwithstanding the custom-house receiving the 12 per cent. in kind, there always arise questions, because they wish to choose the best, which causes great damage, and the assortment is spoiled.

We must observe that all articles coming from Soudan, Timbuctoo, and other places in Nigritia into this Ottoman dominion, viz. in Fezzan, pay a duty of 9 per cent. in ready cash, without getting any teskéré or other document stating that the article has paid at Fezzan the 9 per cent. already; and when those articles reach Tripoli they make the Arabs pay a second customs' duty of 13 per cent., prohibiting them to sell those articles to Europeans free of duty; in consequence the second duty falls on the British merchants, as it is included in the price of the article so sold.

Importations.

Wheat, corn, barley, &c., which they pretend to be the produce of Turkey, on coming here from Europe pay 12 per cent. custom-house duty; they also insist to get the 12 per cent. on all articles in general the produce of Tunis coming from Malta or Europe; whereas we intend to pay only the 5 per cent. as on all other articles from Europe, according to the Tariff of 1839.

Course linen pays 40⅓ paras per oke, each piece of 24 yards weighing less than 2 okes; by calculating it pays 6½ (instead of the 5) per cent. as by the Tariff.

Paper, threemoons, pays customs 30 piastres for each bale of 12 reams; according to the Tariff it should pay 12 and not 20 piastres.

Soap pays custom 10 piastres per cantar; it ought to pay 5½ piastres as by the Tariff.

Sugar in loaves pays duty 14 piastres per cent.: according to the Tariff it ought to pay no more than 9.

Fine sugar crushed pays customs 12 piastres per cantar; it ought by the Tariff to pay 6 piastres and 36 paras.

Brown sugar pays duty 8 piastres per cantar; by the Tariff it should pay 5 piastres 4 paras.

Pack-thread pays duty 20 piastres per cent.; according to the Tariff it ought to pay 7½.

The foregoing are the articles most important and on which commerce suffers a great deal, leaving aside those of less consequence.

We have, &c.,

(Signed in the Italian by fourteen merchants, all British subjects.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 25.

The Merchants of Benguzi to Mr. Consul Wood.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Benguzi, July* 16, 1846.

WE, Her Britannic Majesty's subjects, having, at different epochs, had occasion to bring forward our claims against several aggravations in the custom-house duties, contrary to the late Commercial Treaty and Tariff between Great Britain and Turkey, see now with pleasure that our Representative in Constantinople seems to take them into consideration; and although some of them have been modified, yet we submit—

Exportations.

1. Wool, whereof the maximum price per cantar of 50 okes is 100 piastres the minimum 60 piastres, the middle price 80, pays 25 piastres per cantar, which amounts instead of 12 to 30 per cent.

2. Butter. Its common price is 250 piastres; and the duty commonly paid from 15 to 16 per cent.

3. Goat-skins are commonly sold from 40 to 80 paras each, they being small, common, and of coarse hair; pay according to Tariff 21 paras each, which comes to 26½ per cent. on the maximum price.

4. Sheep-skins are purchased at from 40 to 80 paras each, and equally pay 21 paras each.

5. Ivory. This article is now paid in kind to the custom-house, but causes continual disputes at the custom-house, because the local Government wish always to receive those that are convenient to them, and the merchants to pay the duty by the inferior ones. If a price by Tariff were to be established, those of less weight than 4 okes might be valued at 20 piastres per oke, and the larger ones at from 30 to 35 per oke.

Importations.

Course linens pay custom-house duty 40⅓ paras per oke: those of the common quality here weigh generally okes 2½ per piece; are sold for 35 paras; so that they pay 100 paras instead of 75, as is the sense of the Tariff, viz., 5 per cent.

The question of the Barracani and Tunisian caps is still pending: this is an article of importation; and it is not known for what reason Government pretend the duty of 12 per cent. in violation of the Treaty.

It is also so with respect to wheat, barley, &c., the produce of Turkey, imported here by way of Malta and Europe. As one cannot in general foresee that their destination is for Barbary, they cannot furnish themselves with custom-house certificates, and here Government pretend the 12 per cent.

These are the articles most of importance and upon which our commerce suffers the greatest damage, leaving apart those of less consequence.

We have, &c.,

(Signed by sixteen merchants as in the Italian original.)

No. 26.

Mr. Consul Brant to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 3.)

My Lord, *Smyrna, January 21, 1847.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th instant, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed, copies of my report and of its inclosures, relative to the amendment of the Tariff of 1839, and the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon the British trade with Turkey, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople.

I trust the delay that has occurred in furnishing the Embassy with this report, for which I beg humbly to apologize to your Lordship, will not be attended with any prejudicial consequences to the public service.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. BRANT,
Consul.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Mr. Consul Brant to the Hon. H. Wellesley.

Sir, *British Consulate, Smyrna, January 21, 1847.*

I HAD the honour to receive in due course the despatch marked "circular," which his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning addressed to me on the 8th June last, requiring me to furnish him with statements in detail respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, with such suggestions for improvements as I might be able to obtain from British merchants within my district; and directing me to add any further observations which I might have to offer respecting the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade with Turkey.

In compliance with these instructions, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith inclosed, a Table of the articles of import which interest British subjects, on which alterations in the rates of duties fixed by the Tariff of 1839 are considered to be necessary. The average prices of those articles for the last twelve months are given, whereon it is proposed that the new duties should be based; and annexed are such observations as have occurred to the merchants who furnished this information, and to myself, and which appear to be requisite in order to enable the Commissioners who will be appointed to revise the Tariff to form a correct judgment on the matter, so far as the British import trade at this place is concerned.

I have also the honour to inclose herewith a similar Table of the articles of export, with the alterations proposed and the reasons for the adoption of them. The amendments required to be introduced into this branch of the Tariff are few, as the prices of the greater portion of these articles have not undergone any very material variations since 1839.

To both these documents I beg respectfully to refer you for all that regards this part of the subject.

With respect to the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade with Turkey, it is universally admitted that the Treaty of 1838 has worked extremely well, and produced results most highly beneficial to the trade both of this country and of Great Britain.

By relieving the cultivators of the soil from the oppression exercised over them by monopolists, the exportation of produce to England has been more than doubled in the short space of six years.

In 1839, ninety-one vessels, measuring 15,000 tons, were loaded for the United Kingdom. Since that period the number has been increasing yearly; and in 1845 no less than 196, measuring 35,000 tons, found cargoes.

No complaints have of late years been made to me by any British subjects, of infractions of the Treaty by the Turkish authorities in this district, who are very cautious in their conduct towards Europeans and their agents.

For the first four years after it came into operation, no other duties than the tythe and the 9 per cent. were levied; but in 1843 the Porte re-established one of the old duties, called "Iktissabié," which had been abolished, as well as many others, in 1839.

The intention of the Porte was, that this duty should be raised on articles sold for home consumption only, and it was fixed by a firman at rates equal to 2½ per cent. on the value. These were not at first exceeded, but not long after the promulgation of the order, the local Governors, having themselves become the farmers of the duty, began to increase it; and they now exact as much as 8 per cent. from the Ottoman sellers of produce of every description, whether it be bought for consumption in the country or for exportation.

This abuse may be carried to any extent, as the authorities in the interior are not subject to any control, and no attention has been paid by the Porte to the complaints of the sufferers by the rapacity and extortion of its subordinates.

The Treaty of 1838 is infringed, and its object defeated by these proceedings, as the 9 per cent. internal duty, which is levied on all goods consumed in Turkey, as well as on those exported, was substituted for all other interior duties (except the tythe), and as its provisions are declared to be "applicable to all the subjects of the Ottoman dominions," they are not, I conceive, liable to pay any other duties on the goods they sell, whether consumed in Turkey or not.

The framers of the Treaty justly considered that if the Turkish Government received 22 per cent. duty on the produce of the soil exported, and 19 per cent. on that consumed in the country, that it ought to be satisfied; and it was assuredly on the understanding that no more should be paid, that the internal duty was fixed at 9 per cent., with a view to encourage and extend agriculture and trade, by relieving them from the oppressive burdens by which they had been overwhelmed, and thereby to increase the prosperity of the empire, which however will again be reduced to its former wretched state, if fresh taxes be imposed, and the introduction of abuses be connived at by the Porte.

In Article III of the recent Russian Treaty, this duty (Iktissabié) is particularly mentioned, and its suppression is distinctly announced.

Article IV of the Convention of 1838 provides that the 9 per cent. duty shall be paid "in lieu of all other interior duties;" and it appears to me that if the words, "whether levied on the producer, seller, or purchaser, which duties are hereby absolutely abolished," were added to them, the meaning would be rendered so precise and clear as to leave the Porte no pretext for continuing to levy the Iktissabié, or of imposing any other duty in future on the score of misinterpretation.

It is stipulated in Article IV of the recent Russian Treaty, that the 3 per cent. import duty and the 2 per cent. additional duty shall be paid at once, or the latter in a year from the date of entry under guarantee.

The British merchants whom I have consulted on this point are of opinion that it would be advisable to accede to a similar arrangement with the Porte, for as the 2 per cent. duty is not payable so long as goods remain unsold in the hands of the importer, facilities are thereby afforded to persons so inclined, of evading it altogether, to the great prejudice of the fair trader and of the revenue. In fact a large portion of it is lost to the collector.

If this alteration were made it should be accompanied by this indispensable condition, that the Turkish Government guarantee the restitution of this duty, on shipment to a foreign country of the goods on which it may have been paid, to a farmer of the customs who might be out of office when such shipment took place, as his successor would of course refuse to reimburse the shipper a duty which he had not received, unless bound to do so by his contract with the Porte.

In the recent Treaty Russia has formally prohibited her subjects from carrying on any trade in retail, or from participating in the traffic of the esnafs or corporations, and has declared that the exercise of all handicraft trades belong exclusively to the subjects of the Porte.

This has been viewed with some alarm by the Ionian subjects established at this place: and the manufacturers of wine and spirits, who are very extensively concerned in this branch of trade, and are the most influential among them, being apprehensive that the Porte, on the revision of our Tariff, will endeavour to obtain similar concessions from Her Majesty's Government, have addressed me a memorial on this subject, whereof I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy. I beg respectfully to call your attention to the observations it contains, which are in my humble opinion just and well founded.

The Ionians residing at this place are very numerous, and are engaged in handicraft trades of every description. Their exclusion, therefore, from the esnafs to which they have been admitted for a long series of years, and have thereby acquired the privilege, if not the positive right, of belonging to them, would be attended with the most ruinous consequences to them and their families, and is highly to be deprecated.

Article XIII of the Capitulations alludes to the residence of English artisans in the Ottoman dominions. If they be permitted to reside, the liberty of exercising their trades cannot be denied them, and the right of the Porte to prevent them from so doing may be questioned.

I beg, Sir, to apologize for the delay that has occurred in furnishing you with this report, and to assure you that it has not arisen from any fault of my own, but from the remissness of the merchants to whom I applied for the information required in not supplying me with it at an earlier period, notwithstanding my constant and earnest solicitations.

I trust, however, that no prejudice will result from this circumstance to the public service.

In compliance with Sir Stratford Canning's instructions, I transmit this day copies of this despatch and of its inclosures to the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. BRANT,
Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

A List of Articles of Import into Smyrna, on which alterations in the Rates of Duty are considered necessary.

Articles.	Quantity.	Average Prices in 1846.	Proposed Import Duty on those prices.	Present Import Duty.	Observations.
		piastres.	aspers.	aspers.	
Anchors .. .	quintal	120	432	320	On comparing the rates of the duties proposed to be levied on imports at 3 per cent. on their average value in 1846, with those now in force as stated in the annexed Table, it will be seen that the latter are, with few exceptions, much higher than the standard of 3 per cent, on account the fluctuations that have taken place in prices since the Tariff was last revised, and consequently that considerable modifications therein are required.
Baccala and Stockfish	ditto	67½	243	360	
Beer, English	dozen	30	108	144	
Cables, chain	quintal	95	342	400	
Cassia Lignea	oke	11¼	42 70/100	40	
Cloves	ditto	14½	54 70/100	54	
Coals	quintal	7½	27	32	
Cochineal	oke	103	370	360	
Coffee	ditto	5 11/100	18 43/100	23	This market is chiefly supplied with coffee from Brazil, which is a low quality. Prices have not varied to any great extent for the last four years, and are not likely to increase.
Copperas, English	quintal	25¾	92 48/100	100	
Cotton Twist, grey, English ..	oke	14½	50 10/100	63	This article has considerably declined in value since 1838, but the prices have been nearly stationary in this market for the last four years, and are not likely to rise permanently above the present average of 14 piastres, though they may be influenced temporarily by the recent advance in cotton in the English market.
Ginger	quintal	192½	693	720	
Indigo, in chests	oke	69	248	360	The importation is confined to the middling qualities of Bengal; and as the consumption is much reduced, and diminishes yearly, there is little probability of an advance in prices. The present average is low, but the article ought not to be valued for duty above 80 piastres.
Iron, in bars and bolts, English ..	quintal	68	244	200	The price of this article has risen of late, and consequently the duty is considerably below the standard of 3 per cent.; but although its present value is an extreme rate, it is likely to be maintained, in consequence of the demand in England for railroad and other purposes, and therefore the estimate for duty may be fairly taken at 70 piastres.
—— in sheets	ditto	95	334	270	
—— in nail rods	ditto	68	244	234	
Lead, in pigs	ditto	100	360	400	
—— in sheets	ditto	115	414	410	
Manufactures of Cotton, viz.:— Grey Calicoes of every description, excepting Grey Madapolams	oke	..	53 3/100	75	It is notorious that a reduction in the prices of these goods has been constantly taking place of late years, and consequently the duties now levied on them are most onerous and totally disproportioned to their actual value. To the improvement of machinery and other causes
Calicoes, bleached ¾ supers ..	piece of 28 yds.	25 3/100	91 1/100	126	
White Long Cloths, 36 in. ..	„ 36 „	58 11/100	214 43/100	234	

Articles.	Quantity.	Average Prices in 1846.	Proposed Import Duty on those prices	Present Import Duty.	Observations.
Manufactures of Cotton, viz.:—		piastres.	aspers.	aspers.	whereby manufacturers are enabled to produce goods at less cost, and to the substitution of inferior qualities under the same denominations that the superior descriptions formerly bore, this continued decline is mainly to be attributed. The market continues to exhibit a decidedly downward tendency, and as it is always overlooked, there is no reason whatever to expect that prices will improve.
White Printers, 42 in.	piece of 24 yds.	38	$136\frac{10}{100}$	170	
Shirtings, as Irish, $\frac{9}{4}$	„ 24 „	41	$147\frac{60}{100}$	198	
E. I. Baftas .. .	„ 12 „	$24\frac{1}{3}$	$88\frac{30}{100}$	108	
E. I. Salempores	„ 18 „	27	$97\frac{10}{100}$	162	
E. I. Long Cloths . ..	„ 36 „	55	199	324	
Cambrics, common, $\frac{6}{4}$ ..	„ 12 „	$21\frac{64}{100}$	$79\frac{10}{100}$	108	
——— „ $\frac{4}{4}$	„ 24 „	$54\frac{56}{100}$	$196\frac{45}{100}$	255	
——— twilled, called Bazin	„ 24 „	$32\frac{10}{100}$	$115\frac{55}{100}$	180	
——— satin, stripes and spots	„ 12 „	$32\frac{1}{2}$	117	100	
Dimities, called Bazin. . ..	„ 24 „	$34\frac{50}{100}$	$125\frac{75}{100}$	180	
Lappets, common, $\frac{4}{4}$	„ 10 „	22	$79\frac{20}{100}$	100	
——— good Harem Sprigs, Waterloo Checks, &c.	„ 10 „	33	$136\frac{80}{100}$	198	
Maddapolams, dyed, 36 in. .	„ 24 „	$33\frac{1}{2}$	$120\frac{60}{100}$	198	
——— grey „ ..	„ 40 „	$70\frac{10}{100}$	$175\frac{35}{100}$	280	
——— white „ ..	„ 40 „	$59\frac{25}{100}$	215	300	
Muslins, Sevapoor, Tangibs 36 in.	„ 20 „	$20\frac{80}{100}$	$75\frac{1}{4}$	100	
——— Sevapoor, Tangibs 44 in.	„ 20 „	$24\frac{1}{2}$	$88\frac{30}{100}$	135	
——— Miemir, Jaconets, 36 in.	„ 20 „	$28\frac{1}{2}$	102	135	
——— „ „ 44 „	„ 20 „	$24\frac{1}{2}$	$123\frac{12}{100}$	155	
Mulls, for printing, Chappali 36 in.	„ 20 „	$21\frac{1}{2}$	$77\frac{40}{100}$	155	
—— for printing, Chappali, 44 in.	„ 20 „	$34\frac{1}{2}$	$125\frac{15}{100}$	150	
—— for Yazmacks	„ 20 „	$32\frac{60}{100}$	$117\frac{30}{100}$	250	
Nankeens, striped and plain ..	„ 40 pikes	$32\frac{1}{2}$	117	200	
Printed Calicoes, navy blue, light ground plates, and all prints of 1 and 2 colors, $\frac{7}{4}$	„ 28 yds.	38	$136\frac{60}{100}$	176	
——— of 3, 4, and 5 colors, $\frac{7}{4}$	„ 28 „	58	$208\frac{80}{100}$	285	
Zebra Shawls, blue and white, blue and orange and green and orange stripes	„ $3\frac{1}{2}$ „	$15\frac{1}{2}$	$54\frac{40}{100}$	95	
——— 2 covers, Fermaish	„ $3\frac{1}{2}$ „	27	$97\frac{20}{100}$	150	
——— blue ground, fine dresses for Persia	„ $3\frac{1}{2}$ „	$20\frac{40}{100}$	$73\frac{51}{100}$	144	
Velveteens	„ 30 „	$94\frac{1}{2}$	$338\frac{80}{100}$	468	
——— printed	„ 30 „	$130\frac{1}{2}$	$470\frac{80}{100}$	720	

Articles.	Quantity.	Average Prices in 1846.	Proposed Import Duty on those prices	Present Import Duty.	Observations.
Manufactures of Cotton, viz.:—		piastres.	aspers.	aspers.	
Nankeens, French and Belgian, shirtan bize, checked and plain, fast colors	per aune	$1\frac{7}{8}$	$6\frac{3}{4}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	
——— ditto false colors ..	ditto	$1\frac{3}{8}$	$4\frac{95}{100}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	
Handkerchiefs, French, Belgian, and Sivers, fast and false colors, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ pikes	per dozen	10	36	32	
——— ditto ditto, 1 and $1\frac{1}{4}$ pikes	ditto	18	$64\frac{80}{100}$	65	
——— ditto ditto, checked, $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ pikes	ditto	25	90	108	
——— common blue, spotted and plain ground	ditto	14	$50\frac{80}{100}$	57	
——— superior, large and small	ditto	25	90	108	
——— in muslin, called Kalimkiari, superior and good colors	each	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$19\frac{80}{100}$	43	
Manufactures, Woollen :—					
——— English shallee in imitation of Angora camblets, castings, &c., pike wide	piece of 28 yds.	236	852	1080	The above remarks apply equally to this description of manufactured goods; and it may be added that the qualities of many woollen fabrics have been of late years deteriorated, and their nature changed, in a great measure, by the admixture of cotton, so that, although they are designated as formerly, they are no longer of the same intrinsic value.
——— English shallee, plain and narrow	„ 28 „	120	432	378	
——— Shallee, figures ..	„ 28 „	140	504	540	It may be doubted whether, if the proposed duties were adopted, the reductions in this case would prove sufficiently ample. Under these circumstances it is suggested that an *ad valorem* duty might be advantageously substituted for fixed rates.
——— ditto, printed, $1\frac{3}{4}$ and 2 pikes	„ 28 „	200	720	1260	
——— ditto, plain ditto ..	„ 28 „	180	608	1080	
——— ditto, figures, ditto ..	„ 28 „	216	$777\frac{60}{100}$	1224	
——— Moreen, damask for curtains, all sorts	„ 28 „	233	$838\frac{60}{100}$	1332	
——— Shalloons, called *Sofi Inglis*	„ 28 „	200	720	540	
——— Carpets	per pike	15	54	66	
Linen Manufactures, viz.:—					
—— Bagging of all sorts, in sets	60 pikes	60	216	180	
Nails, English and Belgian ..	quintal	$143\frac{3}{4}$	$517\frac{1}{2}$	557	
Nutmegs	oke	40	144	288	
Pepper, black	ditto	$3\frac{3}{8}$	$12\frac{15}{100}$	19	The price of this article is not subject to much fluctuation. It has been nearly stationary for the last four years, at an average of $3\frac{1}{2}$ piastres, above which it ought not to be valued for duty.
Pimento	ditto	$4\frac{1}{8}$	$16\frac{65}{100}$	15	
Rum	ditto	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{60}{100}$	15	
Sal Ammoniac	ditto	$6\frac{1}{2}$	23	30	
Sugar, refined, in loaves ..	quintal	255	918	1080	

Articles.	Quantity.	Average Prices in 1846.	Proposed Import Duty on those prices	Present Import Duty.	Observations.
Sugar, refined, crushed	quintal	piastres. 235	aspers. 844	aspers. 828	
—— Muscovado, of all sorts ..	ditto	155	558	612	
Tin, in bars	ditto	700	2520	2000	The price of this article has lately risen, in consequence of its scarcity; but it is an extreme rate, and is not likely to be maintained when supplies arrive. Its average value during the last eight years has not exceeded 550 piastres, which may be considered a fair estimate for duty.
—— plates	2 cases	340	1224	1260	
Wood, Logwood	quintal	25	90	100	
—— Pernambuco	ditto	250	900	1500	
—— Santa Martha	ditto	90	324	378	

(Signed) R. W. BRANT,
Consul.

Smyrna, January 21, 1847.

Inclosure 3 in No. 26.

A List of Articles of Export from Smyrna, on which Alterations in the Rates of Duties are considered necessary.

Articles.	Quantity.	Proposed Valuation for the Duties.	Proposed Export Duty.	Present Export Duty.	Observations.
Cotton Wool, Anatolia, all sorts	quintal	piastres 180	aspers. 684	aspers. 850	This may be considered a fair average valuation, though the actual market-price is considerably higher, owing to the demand in consequence of the short crop in America last year; but it is not to be expected that the present price will be permanently maintained. Cotton pays 3 per cent. *ad valorem* by the Russian Tariff.
—— Yarn, Smyrna, white	oke	10	36	54	This valuation exceeds the present market price of the article.
Drugs and Dyes, viz.:— —— Galls, blue, green, and white	quintal	250	900	1296	The actual average value of galls of all sorts does not exceed 260 piastres per quintal, which is very high paid, consequent upon the failure of the crop of 1845.
—— Galls, Chingret ..	ditto	100	360	7	A distinction should be made in the duty on this quality, which is very inferior.
—— Opium	chequee of 250 drms.	70	252	363	This article is subject to great fluctuations; but 70 piastres is considered a fair average valuation. It pays 3 per cent. *ad valorem* by the Russian Tariff.
—— Safflower, Anatolia	oke	12	43	54	This is the present market price of the article.
—— Yellow Berries, Anatolia, Cesaria, Iskilep, &c.	quintal	18	65	100	The valuation of 28 piastres, on which the present duty was fixed, is exceedingly high. It is true that, during the last two years, the article has attained even a higher price, but those were seasons of scarcity. In 1843 and 1844, in which average crops were produced, the first qualities were sold from 16 to 18 piastres, and the inferior from 7 to 9. The valuation proposed is therefore considerably above the average value, under ordinary circumstances.
Figs	ditto	60	216	3 per cent.	A fixed instead of an *ad valorem* duty is proposed, to prevent the disputes which continually arise as to the valuation. The produce is increasing annually; and prices are more likely to decline than to rise in future.
Leeches	oke	150	540	72	This valuation will doubtless appear high, but it is within the average price of the article, which has increased enormously of late years.
Manufactures, Turkish Carpets, Cushak	ditto	17	61	72	The prices of carpets have undergone but very slight variations during the last eight years; and this valuation is equal to the present average price of 18½ piastres per pike.
Oil of Roses	metical	6	22	36	A reduction of the duty is desirable, as a protection to the revenue, by diminishing the inducement to smuggling. It may be doubted whether a third of the produce pays duty.
Raisins, Sultanas, Carabourna ..	quintal	120	432	540	These may be considered as fair average valuations. The duties hitherto levied have been by far too onerous, and have proved discouraging to the cultivators, who require protection to enable them to compete with the rapidly-increasing cultivation of rai-
—— „ Vourlat ..	ditto	110	396	504	
—— „ Chismé and Yerli	ditto	100	360	432	

Articles.	Quantity.	Proposed Valuation for the Duties.	Proposed Export Duty.	Present Export Duty.	Observations.
Raisins, Rasaky, Vourlat, Chismé, Aidin, Mentechi, and Yerli	quintal	piastres. 55	aspers. 198	aspers. 252	ains in Spain, and to prevent decrease of production; so that there is but little prospect of any material augmentation in the value of raisins for the future. It is somewhat singular that the high rates of our Tariff have been adopted by Russia; her subjects do not, however, deal extensively in the article.
—— Rasaky, Carabournea ..	ditto	75	270	324	
—— ,, Beylerghi ..	ditto	32	115	144	
—— ,, Stanchio and Samos	ditto	32	115	115	
—— black	ditto	28	101	122	
Currants	ditto	90	324	540	
Skins, goats, Angora	each	20	72	126	The present market-price does not exceed 16 piastres each.
—— sheep and goat	ditto	4	14	16	The actual value is from 3 to 4½ piastres each.
Silk, Brussa, and sandjaks of Hudeirondiguer, Sarakeu, Carassi, Kodjayley, Amessia	oke	140	504	720	The duties have been fixed at far too high rates on this article, and have had the effect of discouraging its production. The large and increasing importations into Europe from China are calculated to prevent any rise of price in this country.
—— Payambol, and sandjaks of Aidin, Sighala, and Mentechi	ditto	120	432	540	
Valonea, all sorts	quintal	50	180	240	The present export duty was estimated on the fictitious prices which were obtained before the monopolies were abolished. Free trade, and its consequent increased production, have reduced them to their natural level; and 50 piastres is considered a fair valuation for the future.
Wool, sheep's, fine and coarse ..	ditto	170	612	738	The actual value of wool in the fleece is from 150 to 160 piastres, but this is a low price.

Note.—If any of the above valuations should be objected to, or any material augmentation of them be insisted on by the Turkish Commissioners, it is suggested that the duty be fixed *ad valorem*.

(Signed) R. W. BRANT,
Consul.

Smyrna, January 21, 1847.

Inclosure 4 in No. 26.

Memorial of Ionian Tavern-Keepers to Mr. Consul Brant.

M. le Consul, *Smyrne, le* 5 *Janvier*, 1847.

LES Soussignés, sujets Ioniens, chefs des taverniers (fabricans de vins) dans cette ville, ayant appris que sous peu le nouveau tarif des droits de la douane va être réglé entre l'Angleterre et la Turquie, et comme cette dernière Puissance pourrait profiter d'une telle occasion pour apporter des changemens ou faire des restrictions au Traité de Commerce de l'année 1838, en se repliant sur les concessions qu'elle a récemment obtenues du Gouvernement Russe, au moyen de la Convention du $\frac{18}{30}$ Avril, 1846. Les Soussignés, tout en nourissant la confiance la plus étendue dans la clairvoyance et le zèle des autorités Britanniques dans ce pays, pour la liberté du commerce, et pour la prospérité en général de leurs administrés, ne peuvent néanmoins se dispenser de vous soumettre que leurs intérêts se trouveraient gravement compromis par une modification quelconque à l'état actuel des choses; et à ces fins ils prennent la liberté de vous faire les observations suivantes:—

La Russie en adhérant aux conditions de son dernier Traité de Commerce avec la Sublime Porte, reconnait formellement que ses sujets ne doivent pas faire part des esnafs ou corporations des différentes branches industrielles dans la Turquie, et par cette clause elle a eu en vue un double but: 1°. celui d'avoir l'air de favoriser l'industrie nationale de la Turquie, au détriment de ses propres sujets, tandis qu'elle, ne permettant pas aux véritables sujets Russes de quitter leur pays, il n'y en a pas un seul qui soit établi en Turquie, et ceux qui passent sous ce nom ne sont réellement que des Rayas de la Porte qui ont acheté la nationalité Russe, et n'appartient qu'à la classe des négocians, car les moyens limités des artisans et des cultivateurs des terres ne leur permet pas de se rendre en Russie pour acquérir cette nationalité-là, et pour contribuer aux redevances annuelles qui y sont attachées. 2°. Parceque la Russie, dans ses vues par trop connues d'une politique hostile, a voulu par les susdites concessions porter atteinte aux relations de la Turquie avec les autres Puissances d'Europe qui ont des nationaux établis dans ces contrées, et qui de tems immémorial appartient aux classes industrielles du pays et font partie des esnafs. Ce qu'au commencement était une tolérance du Gouvernement Ottoman, devint un droit fondé sur la coutume non-interrompue de longues années. Et le Gouvernement Ottoman favorisa ce droit parceque il y trouva son compte, ses propres sujets n'étant pas, comme ils ne le sont pas aujourd'hui, à même d'exploiter le vaste domaine de l'industrie indigène.

Dans la jouissance de ce droit coutumier, la Grande Bretagne, plus que toute autre Puissance Européenne, y est intéressée, car les Anglais et les Ioniens, soit par leur nombre, soit par l'importance et l'étendue de leurs établissemens industrielles, sont précisément ceux qui embrassent une plus large échelle; par exemple, dans la corporation des Taverniers, les neuf-dixièmes sont des sujets Ioniens; ces mêmes sujets, sur les garanties que leur offrait le Traité de 1838, ont sensiblement augmenté leurs ateliers et étendu leurs propriétés y relatives. Ce qui est dit par rapport aux Taverniers, dans les proportions moins grandes, on peut dire de tous les autres arts et métiers, tant de ceux où la matière primitive est du produit du sol Turc, que de celle qui est importée de l'extérieur, particulièrement lorsqu'on réfléchit à la corporation des Boutiquiers, qui exploitent le commerce en détail des manufactures Anglaises.

En un mot, d'après le système Turc, tout est esnaf ou corporation de métiers dans ce pays, et si l'on voulait exclure de ces corporations les sujets Européens, indépendamment de ce que l'on verrait réduit à la misère un grand nombre d'individus et de familles, et qui seraient obligés de quitter pour toujours la Turquie, et par là servir les vues politiques de la Russie, le commerce même, tant d'importation que d'exportation, en souffrirait, au détriment des intérêts Britanniques, puisqu'il serait de

toute impossibilité que les sujets Turcs puissent combler le vide que laisserait une pareille émigration.

Les Soussignés vous supplient, M. le Consul, de vouloir prendre en mûre considération les présentes réflexions, et les appuyer auprès des autorités supérieures, afin qu'eux et leurs co-nationaux ne soient pas les victimes des projets ambitieux tels que ceux de la Russie, qui ressortent de sa dernière convention avec la Porte.

Les Soussignés, &c.

(Firmati all' originale)

A. Lombardo.
A. Benardo.
G. Papachiriachi.
Hgi. Panajotti Mistò.
A. Alfieri.
E. P. Kivotò.
Giovni. Condaxopulo.
Lorenzo Petrochilo.
Demo. Tetradi.

Ed 58

F.O. 424

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON